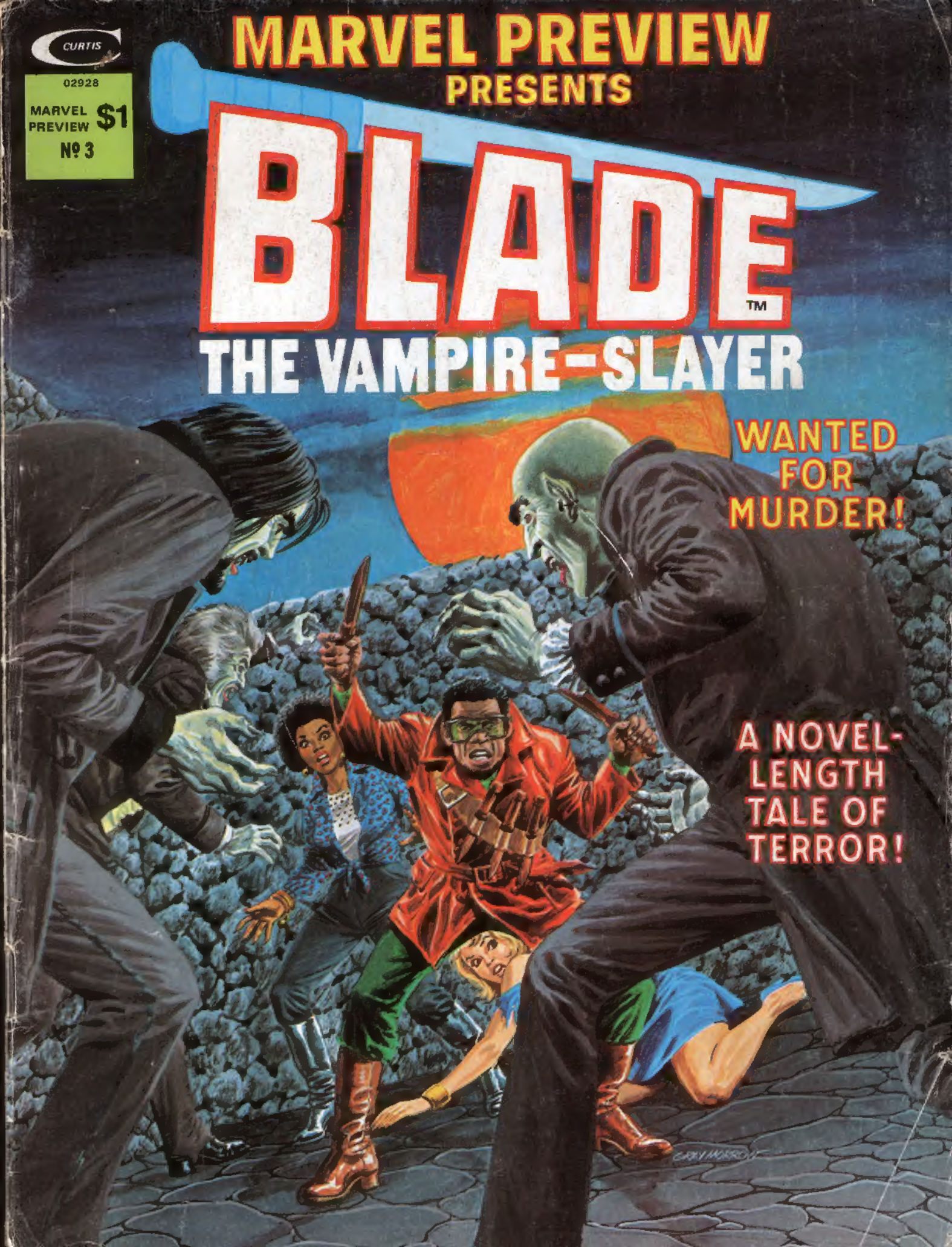
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MARVEL PREVIEW
PRESENTS
BLADE™
THE VAMPIRE-SLAYER
WANTED FOR MURDER!
A NOVEL-LENGTH TALE OF TERROR!

Art: EUGENE COLAN

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STAN LEE PRESENTS

# BLADE™
## THE VAMPIRE-SLAYER

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LONDON--IN THE SPRING OF 1975--
THEY CALLED HER MOTHER OF EMPIRES ONCE, THE CITY THAT RULED THE WORLD--BUT THAT'S ALL CHANGED.
SHE USED TO BE SOMETHING SPECIAL YEARS AGO. BUT NOW 'SWINGING LONDON'S' A CITY MUCH LIKE OTHER CITIES...
LIFE'S CHANGED--AND DEATH HAS CHANGED. THESE DAYS, IT SEEMS, YOU CAN DIE IN LONDON AS EASILY AS IN THE SOUTH BRONX. ASK ANYONE--
--ASK ARABELLA MORLEY...
...WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE CHANCE.
AAARRRR! --MY ANKLE--!
STEPHAN, PLEASE--BEG OF YOU--
--DON'T HURT ME!
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU, ARABELLA DARLING...
...THERE WILL BE ONLY A LITTLE PAIN, MY LOVE...
...FOLLOWED BY AN ETERNITY OF GLORY--
...WHEN YOU JOIN ME ...AS ONE OF THE UNDEAD!
HUMAN, YOU DARE--YOU!!
NOT TONIGHT, BABY--!
AS OF RIGHT NOW, FANGS, YOUR RECRUITIN' DAYS ARE ALL OVER--!

THE NIGHT JOSIE HARPER DIED!
HIS NAME IS BLADE-- AND THIS NIGHT HE IS DOING WHAT HE DOES MOST NIGHTS THESE DAYS, DOING WHAT HE DOES BEST...
...HE IS KILLING VAMPIRES.
SUCH HAS IT EVER BEEN, SO SHALL IT EVER BE-- EXCEPT, THAT TONIGHT IS A VERY SPECIAL NIGHT. FOR TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT THAT BLADE BEGINS A VERY PERSONAL, VERY PRIVATE DESCENT INTO HELL--
BLADE!
YOU'VE BEEN A THORN IN THE LEGION'S SIDE TOO LONG, VAMPIRE SLAYER--
--I SHALL ENJOY KILLING YOU!
THAT'S BEEN SAID BEFORE HOTSHOT--
--SO PUT UP OR SHUT UP, 'FORE I DIE OF BOREDOM.

Story: CHRIS CLAREMONT Art: TONY DeZUNIGA

INSOLENT HUMAN FOOL--
--YOU MERELY HASTEN THE MOMENT OF YOUR DEATH!
I DON'T INTEND TO DIE TONIGHT, BABY--
TWUKKH!
NOR DO I, HUMAN!
NICE MOVE, FANGS-- YOU HANDLE THAT SWORD CANE LIKE A REAL PRO--!
ARE YOU ON A JACK THE RIPPER KICK OR SOMETHIN'?
I'VE STUDIED UNDER THE BEST FENCING MASTERS IN EUROPE, BLADE--AND I'VE BEATEN THEM ALL--!
YOU AND YOUR PUNY WOODEN KNIVES ARE NO MATCH FOR ME-- A MOMENT'S EXERCISE, NOTHING MORE!
WITH MOVES LIKE THAT?? C'MON, FANGS, YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDIN--
NO, BLADE--I AM MOST DEFINITELY NOT KIDDING--
HAAA!
DAMN! IT'S A FEINT--!
AAARGH!

WHERE'S YOUR BRAVADO NOW, HUMAN?
STILL THERE, JUST LIKE I'M STILL HERE--
--YOU MAY BE THE BEST THING WITH A SWORD SINCE SCARAMOUCHE, BABY --BUT YOU MISSED.
THEN I SHALL NOT MISS AGAIN--
--WHA--!
K-THUD!
NO WAY, FANGS --YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE AT ME AN' YOU BLEW IT!
V-DOOOGH!
AN' IN THIS LINE O' WORK--
--ONE CHANCE IS ALL YOU GET!
ENJOY HELL, YOU MOTHERIN' PIECE O' SCUM!
A-A-A-A-A-
SHOO
OUT OF HABIT, BLADE HUNTS UP A CALL BOX AND DIALS 999-- AN AMBULANCE FOR THE GIRL, THE FUZZIES FOR THE CORPSE.
POLICE
AS USUAL, THE AMBULANCE GETS THERE FIRST.
I FIGURED IT WAS YOU, BLADE--
SO HAUL YOUR BLACK BUTT INTA THE WAGON, NOW! THEY'LL BE WANTIN' YOU DOWN AT THE YARD!
HOW 'BOUT A BREAK THIS TIME, CONSTABLE-- IT'S BEEN A VERY ROUGH--
GET IN THERE-- BEFORE I BREAK YOUR TEETH FOR RESISTIN' AN OFFICER--!
OKAY, MAN, I GET THE MESSAGE-- I'LL BE A GOOD... BOY!

IT'S A QUICK DRIVE, OVER WESTMINSTER BRIDGE AND DOWN VICTORIA STREET TO NEW SCOTLAND YARD --BLADE'S DONE IT BEFORE, HE'LL DO IT AGAIN...
...LIKE IT OR NOT, THE GAME HE PLAYS DOES HAVE RULES...
...AND OCCASIONALLY, THE RULES HAVE TO BE OBEYED.
LIKE NOW.
...VICTIM IS A MALE CAUCASIAN, ABOUT THIRTY YEARS OF AGE, BROWN HAIR BROWN EYES...
SKIP THE FORMALITY, EH, DOC? I'VE GOT A MAN ON HOLD UPSTAIRS AND I NEED SOME FAST ANSWERS--
--LIKE, IS THIS CORPSE A VAMPIRE?
NEAR AS WE CAN TELL, CHIEF INSPECTOR THOMAS, THIS BLOKE'S BEEN DEAD ABOUT SEVEN MONTHS-- NOT ENOUGH TO DO A QUICK FADE TO SKIN AN' BONES BUT ENOUGH TO STINK A BIT.
SO, FOR THE RECORD, SIR: YES, THE VICTIM IS--SORRY, WAS A VAMPIRE.

MORGU
WELL, CHIEF INSPECTOR? ARE YE GOIN' T' CHARGE THE ANIMAL THAT KILLED MY SON?
NO, MR. ROAK, WE'RE NOT. WE CAN'T-- BECAUSE, LEGALLY, THERE WAS NO MURDER COMMITTED.
ACCORDING TO OUR PATHOLOGIST, YOUR SON DIED SEVEN MONTHS AGO...

THEN THE MAN'S A FOOL--
NO, SIR. HE IS NOT.
BUT I SEE MY SON REGULARLY. WE'RE VERY CLOSE...

EXCUSE ME, SIR, I'M NEEDED UPSTAIRS-- BUT I AM SORRY, MR. ROAK, SORRIER THAN YOU CAN KNOW...
DAMN YOUR 'SORRY'! HOW COULD MY SON HAVE DIED SEVEN MONTHS AGO-- I ATE DINNER WITH HIM ONLY LAST NIGHT, IN GOD'S NAME--HOW?!

...AS I LIVE AND BREATHE, IT'S CHIEF INSPECTOR THOMAS--
--WHAT KEPT YOU, MAN? I WAS BEGINNIN' TO THINK YOU'D NEVER SHOW UP.
YOU GET THE HELL OUT OF MY CHAIR, BOYO, AT THE DOUBLE!
YES SIR-- CHIEF INSPECTOR THOMAS, SIR, WHATEVER THE MAN SAYS--SIR!
CUT THE COMEDY ACT, BLADE--I'M IN NO MOOD FOR IT TONIGHT.
AN' YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY? BECAUSE I'VE JUST COME FROM THE MORGUE --WHERE A BROKEN OLD MAN IS TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHY WE'RE LETTING THE KILLER OF HIS SON GET OFF SCOT FREE...
DID YOU TELL 'IM, CHIEFY? TELL HIM THE TRUTH?
THAT HIS DARLIN BOY DIED LATE LAST YEAR? THAT THE BOY SPENDS HIS NIGHTS BUTCHERIN' YOUNG LADIES?
THAT THE SCUM WAS A VAMPIRE? I DIDN'T THINK SO.
SEE YA AROUND, CHIEFY.
CHIEF INSPECTOR
I'M NOT DONE WI' YOU YET, BLADE!
HEY-- WATCH IT--!
NO-- YOU WATCH IT, MATE, 'CAUSE I'VE HAD IT WI' YOU, BLADE! HAD IT UP TO HERE!
IT'S BAD ENOUGH TRYIN' TO COPE WI' QUINCY HARKER AN' RACHEL VAN HELSING--BUT AT LEAST THEY CO-OPERATE WI' THE YARD.
BUT NOT YOU --YOU'VE GOT TO BE SOME BLOODY LONE RANGER--
WHAT IF I AM, CHIEFY? WHAT THE HELL DOES IT MATTER TO YOU?! HUH!?!

JUST THIS-- EVERY TIME YOU DRAG A CORPSE IN 'ERE, I'VE GOT A POTENTIAL LYNCH MOB ON MY HANDS--
I'VE GOT LAWYERS, GRIEVING RELATIONS, M.P.'S, CIVIL LIBERTARIANS, BLOODY RACISTS--ALL SCREAMING FOR YOUR NECK--!
'ERE WE GO, ANOTHER EDITION O' THE FRIDAY NIGHT FOLLIES...
...COR', IT'S LIKE LIST'NIN' TO FLIPPIN' MONTY PYTHON.
AN' THE KICKER IS-- I'M DOIN' THIS FOR THEM.
YEAH--YOUR MOTIVES ARE SO BLEEDING SIMON-PURE, AREN'T THEY? AVE, SAINT BLADE--
--WELL, THE PEOPLE DON'T SEE YOUR MOTIVES, MATE; ALL THEY SEE ARE THEIR LOVED ONES, DEAD BY YOUR HAND--
GOOD FOR THEM.
LAND RD ATION
'CAUSE ALL I SEE ARE THE VICTIMS--
--AN' THE MOTHERIN' VAMPS THAT KILLED 'EM.
BLADE, I JUST WANT YOU TO COOL IT FOR A WHILE--BACK OFF AN' TAKE THINGS EASY...
AN' I SAY, GO TO HELL, CHIEFY?
K-BLUGH
DAI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? D'YOU WANT US TO HOLD HIM?
NO, KATE --LET HIM GO-- I'M ALL RIGHT...
...JUST WINDED, IS ALL.
IT'S BLADE I'M WORRIED ABOUT. HE'S SO DAMNED COCKY, SO SURE OF HIMSELF--
--BUT HIS LUCK CAN'T LAST FOREVER.
SOONER OR LATER, KATE, HE'S GOING TO MAKE A MISTAKE--
--AN' GOD HELP HIM WHEN HE DOES.

A DAY COMES AND GOES AND NIGHTFALL BRINGS A FOG TO LONDON, A PEA-SOUPER SUCH AS HASN'T BEEN SEEN FOR YEARS...
FOG... AND SOMETHING ELSE...
...THE LEGION OF THE DAMNED.
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE, VIERKEN--THE MASTER WANTS BLADE DEALT WITH ONCE AND FOR ALL...
...SHOULD YOU FAIL THIS TIME...
I WILL NOT FAIL, MARGUERITE...
...BECAUSE EVERY MAN HAS A WEAKNESS...AN ACHILLES HEEL...
...AND BLADE IS A MAN.
HIS WEAKNESS IS A WOMAN. HIS WOMAN... SAFRON.
"AND TO-NIGHT, SAFRON...
...IS OURS.
'ELLO, SAFRON, LUV--
LORD, NO!
A VAMPIRE.
GOT TO RUN --GET TO COVER--
THE FOG'S THICK-- MAYBE CAN LOSE HIM...
NOT 'HIM', SAFRON --THEM.
HELLO, SAFRON-- WHERE YA RUNNIN' TO--?
SAFRON
SAFRON
THE LEGION'S COME FOR YOU
BLAAADE--!!
HELP MEEE--!
FOR A MOMENT THERE IS THE SOUND OF A WOMAN SOBBING--AND THEN THERE IS NO SOUND AT ALL...

SLOW-BOY'S--YOU WON'T FIND IT LISTED ON ANY 'TOURIST'S GUIDE TO LONDON' (THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S STILL A BIT SCRUFFY FOR THAT) BUT IT'S THERE ALL THE SAME... SMALL, CROWDED DEADLY THICK WITH SMOKE AND MYSTERIOUS AS HELL...
...A JAZZ CLUB --ONE OF THE OLDEST IN LONDON, AND ONE OF THE BEST.
BLADE'S HOME AWAY FROM HOME.
HE GREW UP HERE, Y'SEE, HALF HIS LIFE SPENT LISTENING TO JAZZ AND JAZZ MEN--
--SO, WHENEVER HE'S IN TOWN, HE DROPS BY AND PLAYS SOME SETS ON THE HORN.
AFTER A WHILE, WORD GETS AROUND--YOU WANT BLADE, BEST YOU TRY SLOW-BOY'S, MATE...
THE SYSTEM WORKED FOR QUINCY HARKER...
...IT ALSO WORKS OPPOSITION.
I AM LADY MARGUERITE D'ALESCIO--I WISH TO SPEAK WITH MR. BLADE --WOULD YOU ARRANGE IT, PLEASE...
...IT IS A MATTER OF SOME URGENCY.
HEY BLADE, GOT A MINUTE?
SURE COKER --WHAT'S DOIN'?
THE LADY THERE GI' ME A FIVER TO ARRANGE A MEET-IN' 'TWEEN YOU AN' 'ER--
--A MATTER O' SOME URGENCY,' SHE SAYS.
WHY NOT? IT'S BEEN A PRETTY DULL NIGHT SO FAR...

MR. BLADE?
RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, MILADY--
--WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I AM HERE ON BEHALF OF ANTON VIERKEN-- YOU KNOW HIM--?
WE'VE ...MET.*
*IN VAMPIRE TALES #9.--MARV.
MUCH TO HIS EVENTUAL ...SORROW.
YOU CAUSED HIM GREAT PAIN, BLADE --HE WISHES TO RETURN THE FAVOUR--
--HE HAS TAKEN YOUR WOMAN, SAFRON CAULDER,
[redacted]
VIERKEN IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE WOMAN, HOWEVER-- IT'S YOU HE WANTS. DEAD.
HE OFFERS AN EXCHANGE, MR. BLADE-- YOUR LIFE FOR HERS. REFUSE AND SAFRON WILL BE DEAD BY MORNING, A VAMPIRE IN THREE DAYS TIME...
OL' BALDY DOESN'T GIVE ME MUCH CHOICE--
HE GIVES YOU NONE AT ALL.
THEN, LEAD ON, BEAUTIFUL-- MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS.
THAT IT IS, MR. BLADE --MY CAR WILL TAKE US TO THE [redacted].
THRU THERE, MR. BLADE--VIERKEN WILL JOIN YOU DIRECTLY.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MILADY-- AREN'T YOU STICKIN' AROUND TO SEE THE FUN?
VVRROOOMM!
I GUESS NOT.

HA-HA-HA-HA-HA
MAN, IT'S A COLD AN' LONELY NIGHT, TONIGHT--
--I HOPE BALDY AIN'T GONNA BE LONG...
HE-ISN'T.
BLADE, YOU ARE A FOOL AFTER MY OWN HEART--
--TO EVEN THINK THAT THE LEGION WOULD BARGAIN FAIRLY WITH SUCH AS YOU--!
NOW, BLADE, WE HAVE YOU AND SAFRON BOTH --AND YOU WILL DIE, AND SHE WILL BE A VAMPIRE--
--AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP US!
KILL HIM, MY BRETHREN-- KILL THE VAMPIRE SLAYER!!
'NOTHING'? I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, BALDY--
--I WOULDN'T SAY THAT AT ALL!
DZUGH!
LORD VIERKEN, I DIE.. I DIE...
THAT'S THE BREAKS, SUGAR.
BUT... HOW... MILADY SAID... YOU HAD COME .. UNARMED...
UNARMED? NO WAY, BABY.
I JUS' DON'T LIKE FLASHIN' MY KNIVES WHEN I'M PLAYIN' A SET...
OUTA MY WAY, FANGS! I GOT NO TIME FOR SMALL FRY, TONIGHT--
ZZWHOK!
--'CAUSE I WANT VIERKEN! AN' WANT HIM BAD!

VIERKEN!/ COME OUT AN' FACE ME, YOU BALD-PIECE O' RAT-BAIT --FACE ME!
HE CUTS THRU THE VAMPIRES LIKE A MADMAN, HIS KNIVES TAKING A DEADLY TOLL...
...BUT EACH TIME HE CRIES HIS CHALLENGE, THE ANSWER IS THE SAME...
SILENCE.
AND WITH EACH SILENCE ANOTHER NAIL IS HAMMERED INTO SAFRON'S COFFIN.

UNTIL...
THERE HE IS--!
I SPOTTED HIM OUT O' THE CORNER O' MY EYE, DUCKIN' INTO THAT PATCH O' FOG...

BAD MOVE, BALDY-- YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LET ME SEE YOU--YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN ME A TARGET--
--'CAUSE I'M THE BEST THERE IS, MAN--
SWIPISH!
--AN' I NEVER MISS!

OH NO?
AAAEEEEEEEE
WHAT THE --THAT SCREAM?!
THAT'S NOT VIERKEN'S VOICE --IT'S TOO SHRILL, HIGH-PITCHED...
...BUT IF IT WASN'T VIERKEN, THEN WHO--?

WHO INDEED--AND IN SPITE OF HIMSELF, BLADE SHIVERS...
WAIT A MINUTE-- I CAN BARELY MAKE OUT SOMETHING THRU THE FOG--

AS IF ON CUE, THE FOG PARTS--AND THE NIGHTMARE... BEGINS...
OH . MY ..GOD

HER NAME IS JOSIE HARPER AND SHE IS TWELVE YEARS OLD.
SHE WILL NEVER LIVE TO REACH THIRTEEN
OH MY DEAR GOD. NO. PLEASE, NO
BUT BLADE DOESN'T KNOW THAT-- ALL HE KNOWS IS THAT THE GIRL WEARS A SILVER CRUCIFIX AND HAS NO FANGS-- THAT, FOR BLADE, NO MATTER HOW LONG HE LIVES, NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME-- OR AS SURE-- AGAIN.
--AND BLADE'S KNIFE IS BURIED HILT-DEEP INTO HER HEART.

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TRAIL OF TEARS
FUNNY HOW THINGS CHANGE--ONE MOMENT, YOU'RE COCK O' THE WALK, BIG MAN ON CAMPUS. TOP DOG--THE NEXT, YOU'RE DIRT.
A MOMENT AGO, BLADE WAS A STRONG MAN. A PROUD MAN, SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WHAT HE DID WAS RIGHT.
A MOMENT AGO, BLADE WAS THE MAN WHO NEVER MADE A MISTAKE.
BUT THAT WAS A MOMENT AGO, WHEN JOSIE HARPER WAS STILL ALIVE.

SHE'S DEAD NOW...
OH NO, OH NO, OH NO
DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN, WHAT HAVE I DONE?
HE CATCHES HER EASILY, SURPRISED AT HOW LITTLE SHE WEIGHS --LIGHT AS A FEATHER, JOSIE HARPER IS..
AND AS SHE FALLS, BLADE'S MIND SNAPS BACK AN HOUR -- ONLY AN HOUR?! -- TO A TIME WHEN LIFE WAS SIMPLER... SANER...
HE'D BEEN PLAYING A SET AT SLOW-BOY'S, RELAXING AFTER A HARD NIGHT'S HUNT...
AND THIS TITLED FOX HAD SHOWN UP TO TELL HIM THAT THE LEGION HAD GRABBED SAFRON...
..THAT IT WAS HIS LIFE OR HERS, TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.
HE'D TAKEN IT, OF COURSE, --THEY'D GIVEN HIM NO CHOICE -- BUT HE'D COME FIGHTING. THE VAMP RES HADN'T EXPECTED THAT.
EEEEEEEE!
HE'D SNAP-THROWN A KNIFE AT VIERKEN...
EEE EEE
AND IT IN HARPER'S
SIRENS -- ?! THE POLICE -- ! BALDY MUST'A CALLED 'EM!
WHAT IF HE DID -- YOU KILLED THE GIRL, BLADE -- YOU GOTTA PAY FOR THAT --
--BUT I CAN'T, NOT YET, ANYWAY -- NOT WHILE THE VAMPS HAVE GOT SAFRON!
I... CAN'T!!

BLADE'S BARELY GONE BEFORE THE LOCAL FUZZIES ARRIVE--
--SUMMONED BY AN ANONYMOUS TIPSTER WHO'D TOLD THEM WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO FIND.
THEM--AND A VERY TICKED-OFF SCOTLAND YARD CHIEF INSPECTOR--
--DAI THOMAS, BY NAME--
SLAM!
--BURNED BECAUSE THIS CALL HAD ROUSTED HIM AWAY FROM THE FIRST HOME-COOKED MEAL HE'D HAD IN A FORTNIGHT.
BURNED THAT IS, UNTIL HE SAW THE BODY...
AND THE WOODEN KNIFE STUCK DEEP INTO ITS HEART.
MEMORIES: AS CRYSTAL SHARP AS PAINFUL, FOR DAI THOMAS AS THEY WERE FOR BLADE...
BLADE, I JUST WANT YOU TO COOL IT FOR A WHILE--
--BACK OFF AN TAKE THINGS EASY...
AN I SAY, GO TO HELL, CHIEFY!
MAYBE, IF HE'D PUSHED BLADE A LITTLE HARDER, LOWERED THE BOOM ON HIM...
ALL RIGHT, I WANT AN ALARM OUT ON BLADE--
--WANTED FOR QUESTIONING. NOTHING MORE. GOT THAT?!
ONE MORE THING--CALL MY OFFICE AND HAVE DETECTIVE-INSPECTOR FRASER REPORT DOWN HERE...
...MAYBE THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED. MAYBE JOSIE HARPER'D STILL BE ALIVE...
...YEAH, MAYBE. FAT LOT OF GOOD 'MAYBE' DOES.
I TOLD YOU, BLADE--I TOLD YOU, YOU'D SCREW IT UP ONE DAY--AN' NOW, YOU'VE GONE AN DONE IT.
SO GOD HELP YOU, LAD--BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE IN THIS CITY WILL.

PORTRAIT OF A MAN ON THE RUN:
IT'S A NEW FEELING FOR BLADE, ONE HE DOESN'T LIKE.
OH, SURE, HE'S RUN FROM VAMPIRES BEFORE, THAT'S PART OF THE GAME...
...BUT HE'S NEVER RUN FROM A MURDER BEFORE, NEVER FROM THE POLICE...
NEVER FROM HIS OWN KIND.
BLADE'S LIKE A WOUNDED ANIMAL TONIGHT, STILL TOO STUNNED BY WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THINK STRAIGHT...
RUN-OUT LISTING...
RUN-DOWN...
SLOW BOY!
HOW DO, BLADE-- HEY, YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN--YOU LOOK LIKE DEATH WARMED OVER...
THE STORY'S SIMPLY TOLD, SUMMED UP IN ONE LINE: "SLOW BOY, I KILLED A LITTLE GIRL TONIGHT. A . HUMAN GIRL..."
THAT'S IT, MAN--YOU'VE HAD IT--THE LAW CATCHES YOU, THEY'LL CRUCIFY YOU, NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT.
BUT YOU'RE A FRIEND, BLADE, AN' SLOW BOY HELPS HIS FRIENDS-- YOU NEED MONEY, A PASSPORT, A WAY OUTA' ENGLAND...
THANKS, MAN, BUT NO THANKS. I'M GONNA GIVE MYSELF UP...
...BUT FIRST, I GOTTA FIND SAFRON--BEFORE THE LEGION TURNS HER INTO A VAMPIRE.
TROUBLE IS, SLOW BOY, I GOT NO LEADS.
I CHECKED THE HOUSE ON MORTTEY PLACE BUT THEY'RE LONG GONE FROM THERE.
AN' AS FOR THE WOMAN WHO SET ME UP, COKER KNEW HER NAME...
BUT THE LEGION GOT TO 'IM 'FORE I DID. DRAINED HIM DRY.
WHO KNOWS--MAYBE JALYA GOT A SHOT OF THE LADY?
JALYA! OUT FRONT, HONEY!

JALVA--YOU DEVELOPED TONIGHT'S PIX, YET?
JUST OUT OF THE TANK--
--HEY, SLOW-BOY, MICKEY AN' I JUST HEARD ABOUT BLADE ON THE POLICE RADIO--!
THEY WANT HIM BAD--THEY WANT HIM FOR A MURDER!
YEAH--I KNOW.
BLADE SAYS HE'S GONNA TURN HIMSELF IN...
.. BUT THERE'S SOMETHIN' IMPORTANT HE'S GOTTA DO FIRST...
..I BELIEVE 'IM, MICKEY--HOW 'BOUT YOU?
I'M A REPORT-ER, SLOW-BOY, NOT A COP.
IF BLADE'S WORD IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
THANKS, MICKEY--
--RIGHT, THEN, JALYA-HONEY, LET'S SEE THOSE PHOTOS.
IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE...
WILL YA LOOK AT THAT--THE LADY PRINTED. SHE CAN BE PHOTO-GRAPHED.
AN' I FIGURED HER FOR A VAMPIRE.
A VAMPIRE? HER? MAN, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
THIS, MY WANTED FRIEND, IS LADY MARGUERITE D'ALESCIO--TITLE, HOUSE OF LORDS, MONEY, POWER, YOU NAME IT--
--IF SHE'S ONE OF THE BAD GUYS, BLADE, FORGET IT--YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE.
SO WHERE DOES THE LADY LIVE, MICKEY?
UP NORTH--ON THE SCOTTISH BORDER.
BUT SHE'S IN LONDON NOW--AT HER MAYFAIR TOWNHOUSE.
THANKS.
MAYBE I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE, MICKEY--BUT I WOULDN'T BE A MAN IF I DIDN'T GO DOWN FIGHTIN'.

MAYFAIR--A VERY RICH, VERY CLASSY PLACE, DESPITE THE INTRUSION OF BIG-TIME HOTELS AND BUNNIE CLUBS--BUT MAYFAIR'S A NERVOUS PLACE AS WELL, THESE DAYS..
...ASSAULTS ARE UP, BREAKING AND ENTERING, ROBBERY--AND MORE CRIME MEANS MORE POLICE...
...AND THE LAST THING BLADE NEEDS RIGHT NOW IS MORE POLICE.
SO FAR, SO GOOD--THE PLACE SEEMS DESERTED...
DIE, INTRUDER!
NOT TONIGHT, SUGAR--
--I GOT TOO MUCH TO DO, AN' NO TIME TO DO IT IN!
BUT DO ME A FAVOR, HUH, FANGS--?
WHEN YA GET TO HELL, DON'T FORGET TO TELL 'EM ALL WHO SENT YA--
--YOU TELL 'EM IT WAS BLADE--TELL 'EM HE'S STILL ALIVE AN' STILL KICKIN'!
'FRAID I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE YOU MESSIN' UP THE HALL, BABY--SO SO OUT YOU GO--!
MY APOLOGIES TO THE ROSEBED.
OKAY, HOTSHOT--THAT VAMP CLINCHES IT. THE LADY O' THE HOUSE IS WORKIN' WITH THE LEGION.
WHICH MEANS THERE OUGHTA BE SOMETHIN' 'ROUND HERE THAT'LL LEAD ME TO SAFRON. SOMETHIN'... OR SOMEONE...
'CAUSE I'VE KILLED ONCE TONIGHT, LADY M--TO SAVE SAFRON, I'M MORE'N WILLING TO KILL AGAIN.

CUT NOW: BACK TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...
YOU GOT ME OUT OF BED, Y'KNOW, DAI..
TELL ME ABOUT IT, MS. FRASER.
I'VE GOT A ROUGH ONE FOR YOU, KATE A MURDER!
IT LOOKS CUT-AN'-DRIED, BUT I'M NOT SURE -- THE PIECES DON'T ALL FIT...OR FIT TOO WELL.
ON THE SURFACE, BLADE'S OUR MAN -- WE'VE GOT HIS KNIFE, PLUS ENOUGH CIRCUM-STANTIAL EVIDENCE TO HANG HIM...
AN' YET, SOMETHING BOTHERS ME. THERE ARE NO PRINTS ON THE KNIFE, Y'KNOW, ONLY BITS OF DECAYED FLESH.
SO I WANT YOU TO GO INSIDE THE GIRL'S MIND, KATE, FIND OUT THE TRUTH...
SHE DOESN'T LIKE THE IDEA, BUT SHE DOES IT JUST THE SAME...
SHE'S A PSYCHIC, IS KATE FRASER, A PSYHOMETRIC READER...
SOMEONE WITH THE PARA-NORMAL ABILITY TO 'FEEL' AN OBJECT'S -- A PER-SON'S -- PAST, FROM CRE-ATION TO DESTRUCTION.
TO FEEL WHAT THAT PERSON FELT, SEE
AND DIE
DEATH

AND BE REBORN AGAIN, AS KATHERINE FRASER, DETECTIVE-INSPECTOR, C.I.D., METROPOLITAN POLICE!
IT'S LOVELY WAY TO LEARN QUIDDITCH...
WHAT KATE DOES BEST.
YOU OKAY, LUV--YOU'RE SHAKING LIKE A LEAF.
I'M... ALIVE...
THE KILLER'S A VAMPIRE, DAI, NOT BLADE -- THIS IS A FRAME-UP.
AND IT'S BIG, VERY BIG. A LEGION OF VAMPIRES, RUN BY A WOMAN, THEY'VE GOT BLADE'S WOMAN, SAFRON -- THEY PLAN TO KILL HER.
MY GOD--KATE, THERE'S NO HARD EVIDENCE TO BACK UP YOUR STORY...
I KNOW--AND, IN LAW, EVIDENCE SECURED THRU PSYCHIC MEANS IS CLASSED AS HEARSAY, INADMISSABLE IN COURT.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO OUT AND FIND SOME 'HARD EVIDENCE'...
ON YOUR OWN? DON'T BE STUPID, KATE -- THE LEGION SOUNDS LIKE IT'S PLAYING FOR KEEPS...
...AND I DON'T THINK THEY'LL WORRY MUCH ABOUT KILLING A POLICE OFFICER.
TELEPHONE
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO? LET BLADE GO TO THE WALL KNOWING ALL THE WHILE THAT HE'S INNOCENT--?
COME ON, DAI -- YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT. WHATEVER THE RISK, I'VE GOT TO HELP BLADE...
AND RISKS THERE ARE A'PLENTY. MEET POLICE CONSTABLE THOMAS LAWSON -- GOOD HUSBAND, GOOD FATHER, ELEVEN YEARS ON THE FORCE WITHOUT A BLEMISH ON HIS RECORD...
TWO YEARS AGO, TOM LAWSON TRIED TO STOP AN ASSAULT ON MARYLEBONE ROAD, A TALL MAN IN AN OPERA CAPE ATTACKING A YOUNG GIRL...
...TOM'S REQUESTED NIGHT DUTY EVER SINCE.
THIS IS LAWSON, MILADY --
--WE'VE GOT TROUBLE WITH THE BLADE AFFAIR. MAYBE BIG TROUBLE.

TIME CUT: BACK A FEW MINUTES (KATE FRASER'S JUST PULLING FREE OF JOSIE'S EMPATHIC MEMORY, HER FACE GRAY AND TWISTED WITH PAIN... WITH GRIEF).
BLADE'S FACE IS TWISTED, TOO --WITH FRUSTRATION AND ANGER.
NOTHING!
NOTHIN' ON THE LEGION, NOTHIN' ON SAFRON-- NOTHIN' BUT TEAS AT THE PALACE AN' LOUSY HORSE SHOWS!
LOOKS LIKE YOU STRUCK OUT TONIGHT, BABY--
--WHAT THE--?
KRING
TELEPHONE, MILADY.
I HEAR IT, WILLIAM.
I'LL TAKE IT IN MY STUDY.
BALDY! WELL, LOOKS LIKE THE GANG'S ALL HERE, ANYWAY--
--STAY COOL, MAN-- PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT AN' MAYBE THEY'LL GIVE YOU THE LEAD YOU BEEN LOOKIN' FOR...
YES? HELLO, LAWSON-- WHAT'S WRONG--OH, I SEE.
THIS POLICEWOMAN--INSPECTOR FRASER-- KNOWS THE TRUTH ABOUT JOSIE HARPER'S DEATH AND SAFRON'S ABDICTION..
--BUT SHE CANNOT PROVE IT. SUCH A PITY.
BUT SHE INTENDS TO PROVE IT... BY FINDING SAFRON.
VIERKEN, THIS WOMAN IS DETERMINED TO PROVE HERSELF TROUBLESOME--
THANK YOU FOR CALLING, LAWSON. SHE WILL BE DEALT WITH.
GOOD NIGHT.
--IT IS UP TO YOU TO SEE THAT HER QUEST... FAILS.
AS YOU COMMAND, LADY MARGUERITE. IT WILL BE MY... PLEASURE.
I'LL BET, FANGS. BUT WHEREVER YOU GO, BABY, WHATEVER YOU DO...
...BLADE IS GONNA BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU-- ALL THE WAY.

THERE'S A PATTERN TO A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, Y'KNOW--YOU START WITH SQUARE ONE AND WORK YOUR WAY THRU TO THE END. AND SOMETIMES THE FOOT-SLOGGING PAYS OFF, AND SOMETIMES IT DOESN'T...
QUIT THE HORSEPLAY, TONY-- SAFRON
CAULDER HAS BEEN THE FEATURED DANCER HERE FOR THREE YEARS.
THAT MEANS I'M S'POSED TO KNOW WHERE SHE IS --WHAT AM I? A FLIPPIN' COMPUTER??
YOU'RE STAGE MANAGER--IT'S YOUR JOB TO KNOW.
THERE'S A FIVER IN IT FOR YOU, IF YOU TALK.
OH. WELL, THAT'S DIFF'RENT, I'N'T IT?
SHE'S SICK, SAFRON IS--CALLED IN WI' THE FLU 'BOUT TWO DAYS AGO.
ANYTHIN' ELSE I CAN TELL YA, INSPECTOR?
SHE'S NOT SICK, TONY-- AND SHE'S NOT HOME. BUT SHE IS IN VERY GREAT DANGER.
NOW WHO'D HAVE A HANDLE ON HER? FOR ANOTHER FIVE QUID, OF COURSE.
TA.
PONCE WOULD--DOWN IN SOHO. 'E WAS AFTER SAFRON PRETTY GOOD, PONCE WAS--'TIL BLADE STEPPED IN. YEAH, PONCE'D KNOW.
THANKS, TONY-- I'LL BE SEEING YOU.
YEAH... SURE...
GOOD EVENING, ANTHONY. YARD AT WORK, I SEE.
I TOLD 'ER, MASTER.
I TOLD 'ER EV'RYTHIN' YOU TOLD ME TO TELL 'ER-- WHERE TA GO AN' WHO TA SEE--
--JUS' LIKE YOU SAID.
'AV I DONE WELL, MASTER PONCE?
YOU'VE DONE VERY WELL, ANTHONY.
THE LEGION IS PROUD OF YOU.

SQUARE TWO. PONCE'S:
IT'S NOT IN THE GUIDE BOOKS, E THER--
--A VERY... SPECIAL PLACE, IS PONCE'S, FOR A VERY SPE-CIAL CLIENTELE.
KATE FRASER KNOWS PONCE'S KNOWS IT WELL --AND WHY SHOULDN'T SHE? SHE'S BUSTED IT ENOUGH TIMES.
BUSTED THE CLUB AND BUSTED THE OWNER, EACH TRIP BACK MAKING HER FEEL DIRTIER, SLIM-IER, THAN THE TIME BE-FORE.
THIS TRIP IS NO EXCEP-TION.
PONCE, YOU HOME--? THIS IS THE POLICE --OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
COME ON, PONCE-- I'VE GOT SOME QUES-TIONS FOR YOU-- I'M LOOKING FOR--
--THE LEGION, INSPECTOR!?
WELL, YOU'VE FOUND IT, WOMAN--
--YOU HAVE ALSO FOUND YOUR DEATH!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT, I HAVEN'T--!
BUT YOU CAN'T, INSPECTOR-- YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME--
--AND YOU CANNOT ESCAPE!
PREPARE TO DIE, HUMAN--
NO!
EEE
THE CROSS! THE CURSED CROSS!!

YOU GUESSED IT, PONCE--A CROSS!
SOMETHING NO COP GOES WITHOUT THESE DAYS--!
TRAK!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T WON--THE CROSS CAN ONLY CAUSE ME PAIN--
--IT CAN-NOT KILL!
AND YOU'LL FIND NO STAKES IN THIS OFFICE.
MAYBE NOT--DAMN THIS COAT ANYWAY--
--BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING JUST AS GOOO.
BECAUSE YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THE CROSS, VAMPIRE--
--IT CAN KILL--
--WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S WEARING IT!
AHAH
TOUCH AN' GO, KATE MY GIRL--
--THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER GET OUT OF THERE ALIVE.
BUT YOU'RE OUTSIDE NOW--EVERY-THING'S ALL RIGHT. YOU'RE SAFE.
WHY, IF IT ISN'T DETECTIVE-INSPECTOR FRASER--FANCY MEETING YOU HERE--
HUH??
OH NO.

THE APPROPIATE PHRASE IS: OUT OF THE FRYING PAN, AND INTO THE FIRE...
VAMPIRES!
YES, MY DEAR, VAM-PIRES--
--THE LEGION OF THE DAMNED, TO BE PRECISE.
GATHERED TO OFFICIATE AT YOUR DAMNATION.
YOU HAVE INTERFERED, INSPECTOR, ASKED TOO MANY EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS--
--YOU HAVE MEDDLED IN AFFAIRS THAT ARE NONE OF YOUR CONCERN--
--AND, NOW, YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE!
VAMPIRES, TAKE HER!
THEY CLOSE IN FAST, EAGER FOR THE KILL, KATE READY TO DEFEND HERSELF AS BEST SHE CAN...
...UNAWARE THAT THINGS MIGHT NOT BE AS BAD AS THEY SEEM.
HEY, BABY, LOOKS LIKE YOU AR-RIVED JUST IN TIME--
--THAT LADY COP'S TOUGH, BUT SHE DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THOSE VAMPS.
BUT IF I SAVE HER, SHE'LL PROBABLY BUST ME--AN' THAT'S IT FOR SAFRON--SO IT'S HER LIFE OR YOURS, BLADE--YOUR CHOICE--
--AN' THAT AIN'T NO DAMN CHOICE AT ALL!

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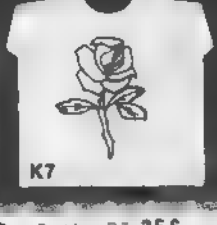
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IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN EASY KILL--A DOZEN VAMPIRIC MEMBERS OF THE LEGION OF THE DAMNED FACING DOWN ONE, LONE HUMAN, A LADY COP. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN EASY KILL---
DAWN OF BLOOD
BACK OFF, YOU LOUSY PIECES OF MAGGOT-BAIT--
--'CAUSE THIS IS ONE NIGHT, THE LEGION GOES HUNGRY!!
BRETHREN, BEWARE --IT IS BLADE--
--GNNARRGKH!

Story: CHRIS CLAREMONT Art: RICO RIVAL

YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT'S BLADE, FANGS--
--AN' YOU BETTER BELIEVE THAT BLADE MEANS BUSINESS!
FOOL--YOU MAY KILL ONE OF US--YOU MAY KILL A HUNDRED--
KROK
--BUT YOU CAN NEVER KILL US ALL!
WE ARE LEGION, BLADE--
--WHILE YOU ARE BUT ONE, PUNY, MORTAL MAN--
--ONE MAN FIGHTING ALONE!
NOT TONIGHT, HE ISN'T!
CHUK
YAAARGH!
NICE MOVE, LADY--
YOU'RE A COP AFTER MY OWN HEART.
BUT THAT VAMP HAD A POINT--THE ODDS ARE ON HIS SIDE--
--SO LET'S NOT PUSH OUR LUCK BY STICKIN' AROUND.
SCARPER, LADY! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

VIERKEN--YOU INCOMPETENT SLUG--YOU HAD THE WOMAN--
--AND YOU LET HER ESCAPE!?!
GET AFTER HER--SEND YOUR LEGION AFTER HER--
I WANT HER BACK AND I WANT HER BACK NOW!
MILADY, IT IS ALMOST DAWN AND WE ARE FAR FROM OUR COFFINS--
--A LONG CHASE COULD DOOM US ALL.
SURELY WE CAN [redacted] HUMANS ANOTHER NIGHT--
YOU DARE QUESTION MY WILL, LITTLE VAMPIRE--
--YOU DARE!!
I RULE THE LEGION, VIERKEN--AND THRU ME THE MASTER RULES--NONE OTHER--
--DISOBEY ME AND YOU DISOBEY HIM--AND THE PRICE FOR THAT TRANSGESSION IS HORROR BEYOND IMAGINING!
SO WEIGH A POSSIBLE HELL AGAINST A CERTAIN ONE, MY VAMPIRES--
--AND GO!!
DO WHAT YOU WILL WITH BLADE--
--BUT RETURN THE WOMAN TO ME ALIVE AND UNHURT!!
THEY DO NOT QUESTION, THESE VAMPIRES--THEY LEARNED THE PRICE OF THAT FOLLY LONG AGO--
--INSTEAD, THEY COURSE THE DARK, FOGGY SOHO STREETS, OBSCENE HOUNDS HUNTING A HUMAN FOX, HOUNDS THAT ARE EAGER, DESPERATE, TO MAKE A KILL.

AND WHAT OF THE FOXES?
SUBWAY
THE UNDERGROUND-- THAT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE--
--BUT THEY'RE ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL. THEIR BODIES CAN ONLY BE
AND THEY PASSED THAT LIMIT LONG AGO.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN OUTRUN THE LEGION ON THE SURFACE--
--BUT IF WE'RE LUCKY, WE CAN GRAB A TRAIN...
...WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO LOSE THEM.
POLICE BUSINESS--!
CALL SCOTLAND YARD--IT'S AN EMERGENCY--GET A TACTICAL TEAM DOWN HERE AT THE DOUBLE--!
THE STATION MASTER IS UNDERSTANDABLY CONFUSED--HE HESITATES FOR JUST A MOMENT--STARTS TO FORM A QUESTION...
AND IS LOST.
IT'S NO GOOD--THE VAMPS ARE RIGHT BEHIND US--!
RUN FOR IT, LADY-- DOWN THE TUNNEL--
--WE'RE DEAD MEAT IF WE STAY HERE!
KILL THE HUMAN-- QUICKLY--WE'VE NO TIME TO WASTE--
--HURRY, BRETHREN--IT'S ALMOST DAWN!
NO, PLEASE, NO--
--IN GOD'S NAME-- MERCY!!
NOT TONIGHT, MATEY--
AAA
--THERE'S NO MERCY FOR ANYONE TONIGHT--NOT MAN, NOT VAMPIRE--NOT HERO--
--NOT VILLAIN...

TONIGHT, MONDO HORROR!
HOLD UP, LADY--
--I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHIN' BACK THERE...
AYE, HUMAN--
--YOU HEARD THE SOUND OF YOUR OWN DEATH!!
BLAST IT, THE TUNNEL'S TOO DARK--
--I CAN HEAR WHERE THE VAMPS ARE, BUT I CAN'T SEE 'EM!
AND BY THE TIME BLADE CAN SEE THEM...
NO!
WHILE MY BRETHREN FINISH THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, WOMAN--
--I WILL FINISH YOU!
MILADY WISHES YOU TAKEN ALIVE AND UNHURT--
--BUT I SAY HER NAY! NO LONGER WILL I OBEY A MERE HUMAN!
AAARRGH! MY EARS-- THE PAIN!
FINE WITH ME, CHUM--
--'CAUSE AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED--
--YOU'RE NOT OBEYING ANYONE ANYMORE.
ZZZRAK!

MEANWHILE...
WHAT'S'A MATTER, VAMPS--THIRD RAIL MAKE YOU NERVOUS?
I MEAN, JUS' 'CAUSE YOUR BUDDY GOT HIMSELF FRIED--
--DOESN'T MEAN YOU GOTTA GO THE SAME WAY--!
BIG TALK, BLADE BABY--
--JUS' DON'T FORGET THAT RAIL'S AS DEADLY FOR YOU AS IT IS FOR THEM--
WATCH IT--! THEY'RE MAKIN' THEIR MOVE--!
TAKE HIM, MY BROTHER-- WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED!
BLAST--HE'S COMIN' IN FAST--TOO FAST--
YAAA--!
--BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH!
BLADE-- LOOK OUT--!
YOU'VE GOT TO GET OFF THE TRACKS--THERE'S A TRAIN COMING--!
ON MY WAY, LADY--
--HEY!
NO, HUMAN--
--YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE--!
IN THE NAME OF THE LEGION--YOU MUST-- AAAGKH!
STUFF IT, FANGS--I AIN'T LISTENIN'--!
OH, MY GOD, MY GOD....
AAAA
TAKE IT EASY, LADY--
--YOU GOT NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT NOW. NOTHIN' AT ALL.

THE SUN IS UP BY THE TIME THEY REACH THE STREET-- IT LOOKS TO BE AN UNCOMMONLY BEAUTIFUL DAY--
--THEY MOVE SLOWLY THRU THE EMPTY STREETS OF EARLY-MORNING LONDON, TAKING THEIR TIME
GOOD THING, TOO, BECAUSE KATE'S HURT, A LEGACY OF THE MELEE IN THE UNDER-GROUND....
OUCH--! YOU KNOW, YOU'RE ONE BLOODY-AWFUL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, CHUM--?
SORRY--NEXT TIME I'LL JUST LET YOU BLEED TO DEATH.
YOU'RE LUCKY, THOUGH-- IT'S JUST A FLESH WOUND, LOOKS A LOT NASTIER THAN IT REALLY IS.
GRIT YOUR TEETH, HON-- THIS IS GONNA HURT....
IT'S ROUGH DOCTORING BUT IT'S A PROFESSIONAL JOB MORE THAN GOOD ENOUGH TO HOLD FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.
SO WHAT'S DOIN', INSPECTOR-- YOU TOO POLITE TO BUST A MAN OVER BREAKFAST? I THOUGHT I WAS WANTED?
YOU'RE.... WANTED.
BUT I HAPPEN TO THINK YOU'RE INNOCENT.
I JUST CAN'T PROVE IT YET.
SO THAT'S WHY THE LEGION WAS ON YOUR TRAIL--
LOOK, INSPECTOR, I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE--
---I'LL GIVE MYSELF UP. ALL I ASK IS ENOUGH TIME TO GET SAFRON FREE O' THOSE LOUSY BLOOD-SUCKERS.
GET HER/ FREE...
...OR DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO MAKE SURE SHE STAYS.....
...DEAD.
THERE'S SO MUCH HATE IN YOU, BLADE-- SOMETIMES IT SEEMS ALMOST ALIVE--
WHY? WHY SO MUCH FURY, SO MUCH HATE...?

WHY? WHY SHOULD I TELL YOU, INSPECTOR-- I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE--
"IT BEGAN WHEN I WAS BORN--WHEN AN OLD WHITE-BEARDED VAMP KILLED MY MOTHER AS SHE WAS GIVIN' BIRTH TO ME...
--BUT THEN AGAIN, WHY THE HELL NOT?
"I GREW UP IN SOHO, AT LADY VANITY'S--SHE TOLD ME HOW MY MUM DIED, BUT I WAS JUST A KID...
"...AN' VAMPIRES DON'T MEAN MUCH WHEN YOU'RE NINE YEARS OLD.
"IT WAS DECEMBER, WET AN' COLD-- I WAS HEADIN' HOME FROM SCHOOL WHEN I SAW THIS OLD GIT BEIN' RUMBLED BY SOME TEDDY-BOYS...
"I FIGURED I'D HELP THE OLD GUY...
THEY WERE VAMPIRES...
"HE SKEWERED A COUPLE O' VAMPS AN' THE REST SPLIT.
"SEEMS LIKE HE ALSO HAD THIS HORN--A TRUMPET.
"HIS NAME WAS JAMAL AFARI...
"...HE WAS A JUNKIE, JUST OUT OF THE HOSPITAL...
"...HE WAS ALSO ONE O' THE FINEST JAZZ HORN PLAYERS THAT MAYBE EVER LIVED.
"HE MOVED INTO VANITY'S, KICKED THE DOPE, BECAME THE FATHER I NEVER HAD...
"HE TAUGHT ME EVERY-THING HE KNEW, ABOUT THE HORN...
AN ABOUT THE UNDEAD.

HE'D FOUGHT 'EM IN HIS YOUTH, HE SAID, EVEN FOUGHT DRACULA... FOUGHT 'EM WITH ALL HE HAD...
...FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID...
ME, I THOUGHT HE WAS A CRAZY OLD MAN.
"UNTIL THAT NIGHT AT SLOW BOY'S...
HEY, JAMAL, --THAT YOU?
HE'D BEEN GONE A WEEK WITHOUT A WORD AN' WE WERE WORRIED THAT MAYBE HE'D GONE BACK ON THE JUNK...I ALMOST WISH HE HAD...
HEY, MAN, YOU ALL RIGHT?
GET AWAY FROM ME, BLADE--!
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, YOUR SOUL, GET AWAY FROM ME--NOW!
I BEG YOU, BLADE--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' MAN--
--THIS IS ME, JAMAL. IT'S BLADE--
CURSE YOU, BLADE--I WARNED YOU--
--NOW YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE FOR YOUR STUPIDITY!
YOU SEE, MY SON, I THOUGHT THEY'D FORGOTTEN ME--IT'S BEEN SO LONG, SO MANY YEARS...
OH, NO, JAMAL. NOT YOU. NOT YOU, TOO.
"...BUT THEY NEVER FORGET. DRACULA NEVER FORGETS.
HE FOUND ME, BLADE. FOUR NIGHTS AGO. FOUND ME AND KILLED ME.
HE MADE ME ONE OF THE UNDEAD...
...AND NOW I THIRST, BLADE--I THIRST FOR BLOOD--
I THIRST FOR YOUR BLOOD, HUMAN--!
JAMAL, FOR GOD'S SAKE-- NO--!!

SPEAK NOT TO ME OF GOD, CHILD--
I AM BEYOND HIS MERCY NOW!
DO NOT RESIST ME, BLADE--
..YOU ARE [illegible] THE INEVITABLE.
"MAYBE SO, BUT I WASN'T GONNA GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT...
AAA
"SLOW-BOY HAD THIS PAIR O' SILVER CANDLE-STICKS-- I GRABBED FOR 'EM...
"YOU CAN GUESS THE REST.
"HE WAS THE ONLY FATHER I'D EVER HAD, LADY--AN' I'D KILLED HIM--
JAMAAAL!
"..BUT DRACULA HAD KILLED HIM FIRST--JUST LIKE THAT BEARDED VAMP HAD KILLED MY MUM..."

THAT NIGHT I SWORE TO GET 'EM BOTH-- NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TOOK...
...NO MATTER WHAT IT COST.
I'M...SORRY, BLADE. TRULY SORRY.
I DUNNO ANYMORE, LADY-- IT'S ALL GONE WRONG....
VAMPIRES KILLED MY MUM, THEY KILLED JAMAL, LADY VANITY--NOW THEY GOT SAFRON-- I KEEP TRYIN' TO STOP 'EM...
...AN' EACH TIME, ALL THINGS SEEM TO DO IS [illegible]..
THERE'S STILL HOPE, BLADE-- THERE'S STILL A CHANCE.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
WELL, I'VE GOT A PLAN. IT'S A BIT RISKY, BUT IF WE PULL IT OFF WE CAN CRIPPLE THE LEGION, MAYBE EVEN KILL IT--

LIKE WE SAID, THIS IS A RARE, GORGEOUS DAY FOR LONDON -- THE SUN SHINING WARM AND BRILLIANT OUT OF A LATE-AFTERNOON SKY THAT'S ALMOST COMPLETELY DEVOID OF CLOUDS....
IT'S A DAY FOR STROLLING THRU REGENTS PARK AND SMELLING ROSES...
D'YOU REALLY THINK WALTZIN' THRU MAYFAIR IN FANCY CLOTHES IS GONNA DO US ANY GOOD--?
THIS IS RIDICULOUS, Y' KNOW--
IT HAS SO FAR.
PEOPLE--THE POLICE AND THE LEGION--EXPECT TO SEE YOU IN YOUR COSTUME.
NO ONE'S GOING TO THINK TWICE ABOUT A RESPECTABLE-LOOKING BUSINESSMAN AND HIS WIFE OUT FOR A SATURDAY STROLL.
I STILL DON'T LIKE IT!
YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA?
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO YOU GROUSE ALL DAY, CHUM, AND I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD IT!
YOU'RE A WANTED MAN, Y'KNOW--OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
WANTED--AT BEST--FOR MANSLAUGHTER, AT WORST FOR--MURDER--EITHER WAY, YOU'LL GO TO PRISON IF YOU'RE CAUGHT.
AND ONCE YOU'RE THERE, MR. BLADE, THE LEGION CAN FINISH YOU OFF WHENEVER THEY LIKE--!
LIKE IT OR NOT, BLADE, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE YOU--
--BUT IF YOUR PRIDE DOESN'T DIG THAT, CHUM, THEN CLEAR OFF, AN' YOU'LL BE BUSTED BY MORNING, SAFRON'LL BE A VAMPIRE, AN' THE LEGION WILL HAVE WON--!
KATE, WAIT A MINUTE--
LOOK, I'M... I'M SORRY, OKAY....
YOU WENT OUT ON A LIMB FOR ME, LADY--I GUESS THAT MEANS I OWE YOU--
--AN' BLADE ALWAYS PAYS WHAT HE OWES, YOU CALL THE SHOTS, INSPECTOR--I'LL PLAY ALONG.

FAIR ENOUGH.
I SPOKE TO A...FRIEND THIS MORNING--SEEMS THAT LADY MARGUERITE'S TOWN-HOUSE HAS TWO STUDIES...
...THE ONE YOU CHECKED FOR SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS, THE ONE DOWNSTAIRS FOR BUSINESS...
AN' IF WE COME UP EMPTY? WHAT THEN?
TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT PART OF IT!
BRRING
YES?
GOOD MORNING--THE NAME IS FITZHUGH, MALCOLM FITZHUGH---THE AGENCY SENT US ABOUT THE HOUSE.
HEARD IT [illegible], Y'SEE--ALWAYS WANTED A HOUSE IN MAYFAIR...
I'M AFRAID THERE'S BEEN SOME MISTAKE. THIS HOUSE ISN'T--
--HEY! WHAT'RE YA DOIN'? YOU CAN'T BUST IN 'ERE!
MY GOOD MAN, THIS IS 27 REGENT'S LANE, ISN'T IT?
ALL RIGHT, BLACKIE--THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU GET.
I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR! WE WERE SENT--
THEN YOU WERE SENT WRONG! NOW GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE I HAVETA BUST SOME TEETH--!
KNIVES?!?
HARRY, IT'S BLADE!!
YOU GUESSED IT, SUGAR--
--NOW D'YOU WANT TO GO DOWN EASY--OR D'YOU WANT TO GO DOWN HARD? UP TO YOU, BABY?
NOW LOOK HERE, MY GOOD--!!
OKAY, MAN, YOU ASKED FOR IT--
--WHAT THE HELL?

NA, ON SECOND THOUGHT--YOU CAN GO DOWN HARD, BOYO--
BROOF!
--'CAUSE NO WAY DO I LIKE BEIN' CALLED, 'BLACKIE-'!
KRAK
YOU GOT THAT?
IT DON'T MATTER NONE-- BLACKIE-BOY!
IN ABOUT A MINUTE OR SO, ALL ANYONE'S GOIN' TO CALL YOU...
...IS DEAD.
I WOULON'T BET ON THAT IF I WERE YOU--
--BY THE WAY, ARE YOU AWARE THAT CARRYING FIREARMS IS A SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSE?
RIGHT--I'LL CUFF THESE TWO LOVELIES AND GO THRU MILADY'S PRIVATE STUDY...
YOU'D BETTER CHECK UPSTAIRS, BLADE--SEE IF SHE LEFT US ANY MORE SURPRISES.
--AND HURRY, MAN--IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO SUNSET!
I'M WAY AHEAD O' YA, INSPECTOR.
IN FACT, I'M KINDA HOPIN' MILADY DID LEAVE US A SURPRISE OR TWO--
-I COULD USE THE EXERCISE.
WATCH IT, BABY--THE ROOM'S OCCUPIED--!
SAFRON?
MAN, THAT'S RICH--I'M RUNNIN' ALL OVER LOOKIN' FOR HER--
--AN' THEY HAD HER STASHED HERE ALL THE TIME!

HEY, SAF--IT'S ALL RIGHT, NOW, BABY, IT'S ALL OVER--
--IT'S BLADE, HONEY, I'VE FOUND YOU--I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU HOME--
B-BLADE--??
GO AWAY, PLEASE--JUST GO AWAY AND LEAVE ME ALONE--
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED, SAFRON--IT IS ME--
--I'M NO VAMPIRE HALLUCINATION, HON--I'M [illegible]--
--I'VE COME TO RESCUE YOU.
NO!!
SAFRON!
FOR GOD'S SAKE, WOMAN--WHAT'S WRONG?!
TALK TO ME, SAFRON--LET ME HELP YOU--
PLEASE, SAFRON...
...I...LOVE YOU...
DON'T LOVE ME, BLADE--'CAUSE YOU CAN'T HELP ME. NOT ANYMORE.
I TRIED TO FIGHT THEM, BLADE--BEFORE GOD...I TRIED, I REALLY DID--BUT THERE WERE TOO MANY OF THEM AND THEY WERE TOO STRONG AND THEY...WOULDN'T EVER LET ME ALONE...
IT WAS NO USE, BLADE...NO USE AT ALL.
SAFRON, I--
DAMN YOU, BLADE--LISTEN TO ME--
-YOU'RE TOO LATE!!
THEY MADE ME ONE OF THEM--THEY MADE ME ONE OF THE LEGION--
THEY MADE ME A VAMPIRE!

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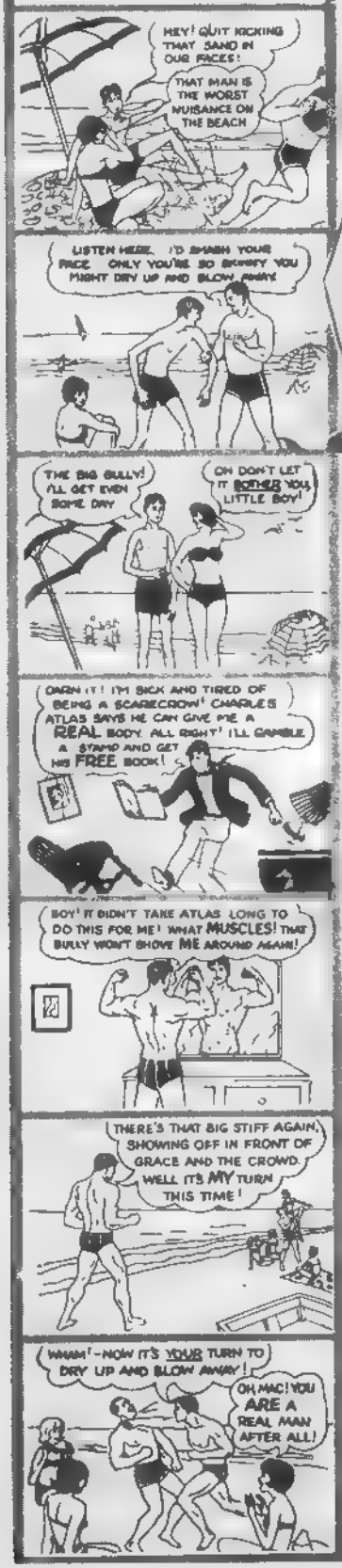
# THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'


HEY! QUIT KICKING THAT SAND IN OUR FACES!
THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE, I'D SMASH YOUR FACE ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND AGAIN!
THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF GRACE AND THE CROWD. WELL IT'S MY TURN THIS TIME!
WHAM! -NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
OH MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!

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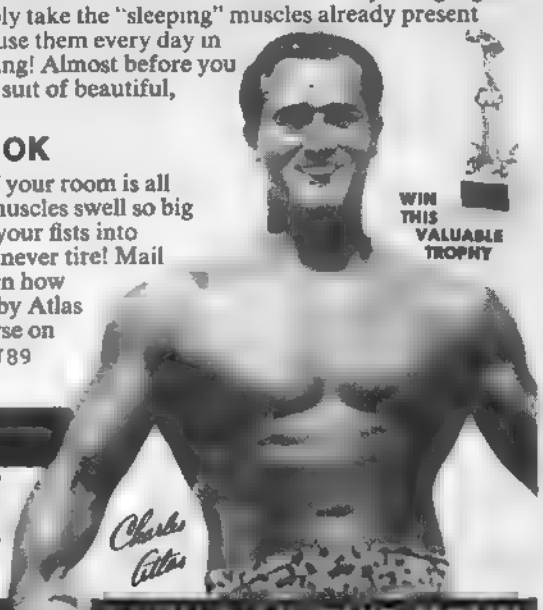


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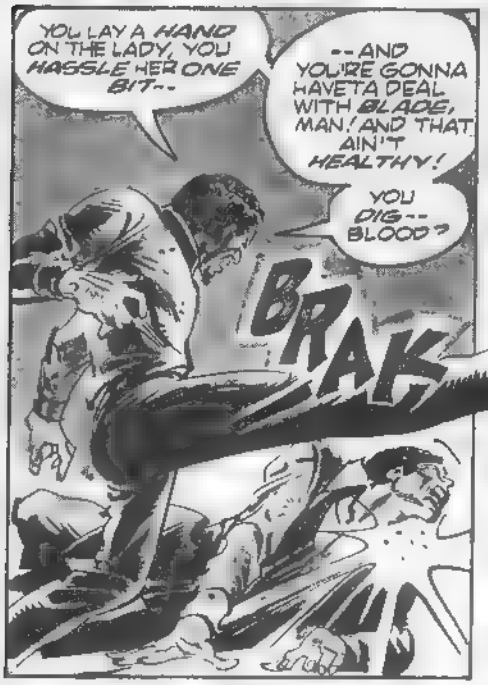
HELLMORN!
IT'S SAID THAT ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE AND ALL WHO LIVE ARE MERELY PLAYERS...
IT BEGAN WITH THE MURDER OF A YOUNG GIRL NAMED JOSIE HARPER, NOT EVEN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO...
...IT WILL END HERE, NOW WITH THE EXECUTION OF A VAMPIRE NAMED SAFRON CAULDER.

Story: CHRIS CLAREMONT Art: RICO RIVAL

IT'S ALL GONE WRONG, HASN'T IT, BLADE? EVER SINCE LAST NIGHT, WHEN HE'D GOTTEN IN TO A SCRAP WITH THE VAMPIRIC LEGION OF THE DAMNED...
...AND ENDED UP KILLING A LITTLE GIRL -- A GIRL WHO WAS NO MORE A VAMPIRE THAN HE WAS.
HE WOULD HAVE GIVEN HIMSELF UP THEN -- IF SAFRON HADN'T BEEN THE LEGION'S PRISONER --
-- HE'D SWORN TO FIND HER -- TO SAVE HER -- AND HE'D KEPT HIS PROMISE. HE HAD ...FOUND HER.
IT'S FUNNY -- ALL HE CAN THINK ABOUT NOW IS THE FIRST TIME HE'D MET HER -- HE WAS OUT OF MONEY, AS USUAL, AND HIS HORN WAS THE ONLY THING KEEPING HIM OFF WELFARE...
SO HE PLAYED SOME GIGS AT SLOW-BOY'S, PULLED IN SOME BREAD, TOOK OFF FOR THE WILDS AND CAME BACK WHEN HE WAS BROKE...
. HE'D BEEN BACK A FORTNIGHT THIS TRIP AND THIS FOX HAD COME TO SEE HIM PLAY EIGHT NIGHTS RUNNING.
THE FOXY LADY DUG THE MAN AND HIS HORN -- AND HE DUG HER..
..TROUBLE WAS, HE WASN'T ALONE IN THAT REGARD.
HEY, HEY, LITTLE SAFRON, WHERE YOU BEEN KEEPIN' YOU'SELF...?
AWAY FROM YOU, BABY!
TALK NICE, FOX -- YOU TALKIN' TO THE MAIN MAN NOW -- YOU TALKIN' TO PONCE!
AN PONCE WANTS YOU, BABY -- HE WANTS YOU ON THE STREET AN' HUSTLIN' TRICKS --
I'M NO HOOKER, YOU SLIMEY --
YOU ARE WHAT PONCE TELLS YOU, WHEN PONCE TELLS YOU, LITTLE LADY -- OR YOUR FACE GETS DUSTED WITH BROKEN BOTTLE! YOU DIG?

MAYBE YOU AIN'T LISTENIN', CRUD-- THE LADY SAID, NO DEAL!
WOK
WHA-- GNNGKH!!


YOU LAY A HAND ON THE LADY, YOU HASSLE HER ONE BIT--
-- AND YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TA DEAL WITH BLADE, MAN! AND THAT AIN'T HEALTHY!
YOU DIG-- BLOOD?
BRAK

YOU PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE TONIGHT, MAN-- HE'LL KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO HIM--
PONCE HASN'T GOT THE GUTS -- AN' I DOUBT HE'S GOT THE SKILL!
LONG AS I'M AROUND SAFRON, YOU GOT NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT...

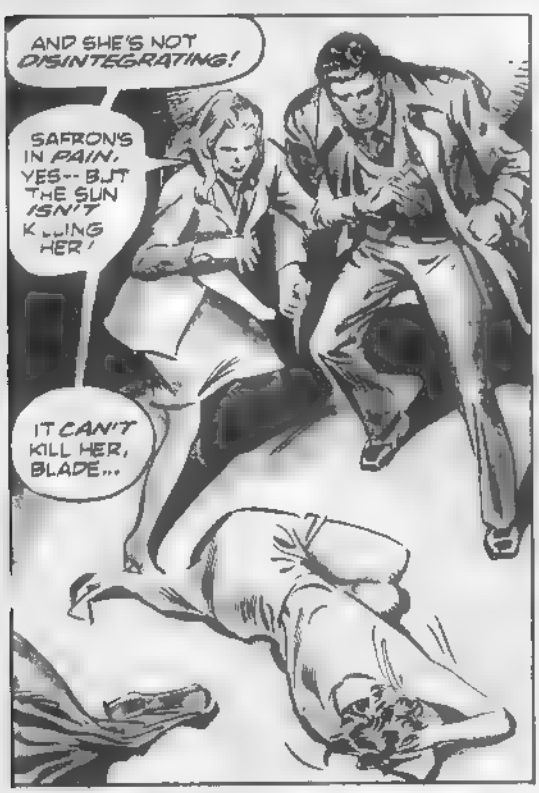
THEN I'LL HAVE TO KEEP YOU AROUND A LONG, LONG TIMMMMMM--
THAT WAS THE BEGINNING -- A NOBLE GESTURE, A PROMISE, AND A KISS.

THIS IS HOW IT ENDS -- WITH A KNIFE.
I'M SORRY, SAFRON -- BEFORE GOD, I'M SORRY...
... BUT I'VE GOT TO DO THIS!

BLADE, NO!!
YOU CRAZY FOOL, SHE'S A VAMPIRE--
-- THE LEGION TURNED MY SAFRON INTO A LOUSY VAMPIRE--

CLUD
--AN' NOW I'VE GOT TO KILL HER FOR IT!!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT..
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE, BLADE...
...A TERRIBLE, POINTLESS, STUPID, UNFORGIVEABLE..
...MISTAKE!!
AAAiiiEEE!!
WHAT THE-- SUNLIGHT!
YOU'RE HITTING SAFRON WITH SUNLIGHT!!


AND SHE'S NOT DISINTEGRATING!
SAFRON'S IN PAIN, YES-- BUT THE SUN ISN'T KILLING HER!
IT CAN'T KILL HER, BLADE...

...BECAUSE SHE SN T DEAD!
BUT HOW-- I MEAN, THE FANGS--?

VIERKEN'S VAMPIRES HAVE INFECTED HER... BUT NOT ENOUGH TO TURN HER INTO ONE OF THE UNDEAD! WITH TRANSFUSIONS SHE'LL RECOVER. BUT IF YOU'D KILLED HER THE POLICE WOULD'VE HAD ANOTHER INNOCENT VICTIM TO ADD TO YOUR LIST!
I'LL PUT IN A CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE!

...BUT FIRST, I WANT YOU TO HAVE A LOOK AT THESE-- I FOUND THEM IN THE STUDY DOWNSTAIRS!
WHAT D'YOU MAKE OF THEM?
COMPUTER PRINT-OUTS... PROJECTIONS... FORMULAE... THE USUAL--
--HEY! I RECOGNIZE THIS STUFF--AN' LADY, IF IT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS--
--WE ARE IN TROUBLE! BIG TROUBLE!
LAST TIME I RAN INTO THE LEGION* OL' BALDY-- AH... VIERKEN, THAT IS-- WAS TALKIN' ABOUT SOME SORT OF BIOLOGICAL PROCESS THEY WERE WORKIN' ON...
...A PROCESS TO ENABLE VAMPIRES TO SURVIVE THE SUN TO COME OUT BY DAY AS WELL AS NIGHT!
*VAMPIRE TALES NO.9 --MARV N' ARCHIE.
THE PROCESS WAS ONLY THEORY BUT IF THESE PRINT-OUTS ARE ACCURATE...
...THEN IT'S COMPLETE, FINISHED... READY TO BE TESTED!
BLADE, THIS IS DYNAMITE-- BIGGER THAN MY LIFE OR YOUR FREEDOM--WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS TO THE YARD! NOW!
MY GOD, IF THESE VAMPIRES GAIN THE POWER TO LIVE AND HUNT BY DAY...
...WE WON'T STAND A CHANCE! IT'LL BE THE END OF US-- OF MANKIND-- THE END OF EVERYTHING!
I GET THE PICTURE, INSPECTOR -- SO LET'S QUIT BABBLING AND GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

NICE THOUGHT, BLADE...
...TOO BAD THE LEGION HAS OTHER IDEAS.
WHAT IN THE--
VAMPIRES!!
KILL HIM-- KILL THE VAMPIRE SLAYER-- LORD VIERKEN COMMANDS IT!!
DIE, HUMAN--
EEAAAGGHH!
NO WAY, FANGS--
--IT'S GONNA TAKE MORE'N CREEPS LIKE YOU TO STOP ME NOW!!
QUICKLY, BRETHREN-- TAKE THE GIRL-- THAT WE MAY YET MAKE HER ONE OF OUR OWN!
BLADE!!
SAFFRON, NO!!!
NOT AGAIN, YOU BASTARDS-- D'YOU HEAR ME--
--NOT AGAIN!!
BLADE, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, HELP MEEEEE!!
SAAAFRONNN!!
MEMORIES-- OF HIS MOTHER, OF JAMA..., EDITH HARKER LADY VANITY TANG N... SAFFRON THIS ONCE, WITH SAFFRON, HE'D THOUGHT HE'D BEATEN THE ODDS, THOUGHT HE D WON...
...AND HE D BEEN WRONG.
BLADE! SNAP OUT OF T, YOU BLOODY FOOL--
--WAKE UP AND FIGHT OR WE'RE BOTH OF US DEAD!
WHUK

C'MON! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--
BUT... THEY'VE GOT SAFRON...
YOU CAN'T HELP HER IF YOU'RE DEAD, YOU STUPID TWIT--SO STOP ARGUING AND GO!
AND SO THEY DO, RUNNING, STABBING, BATTERING, CLAWING...FIGHTING EVERY STEP OF THE WAY TO KATE FRASER'S CAR...
...SOMEHOW--GOD KNOWS HOW--THEY MAKE THE CAR ALIVE...
...AND ROAR AWAY...
...SAFE AND SOUND...
KLOMM!
AAAA!!!!!!!
THEY'RE ALL AROUND US, BATTERING AT THE CAR--I CAN'T SEE TO DRIVE AND WE CAN'T OUTRUN THEM IN LONDON PROPER...
...CALL FOR HELP, BLADE--CALL DAI THOMAS--
IT'S A MAD CHASE, THIS--KATE'S JAGUAR SKIDDING THRU LONDON'S NARROW WINDING STREETS--
--A DOOMED CHASE, BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW WELL KATE DRIVES, HOW FAR SHE RUNS...
TELL HIM WE'RE UNDER ATTACK--TELL HIM I'M HEADING FOR THE RIVER, FOR THE THAMES--
--BECAUSE THAT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
SCCRREEE

...THE VAMPIRES ARE ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD OF HER.
KATE--LOOK OUT--
--IN FRONT OF US--!!
OH NNOOOO!!
SKRAAA
KREEEE
FLAMING!
NO, INSPECTOR FRAZER, YOU WILL NOT DIE--NOT YET!
RA-KAU
THE LEG ON HAS NEED OF YOU!
FWHOOM
A PITY THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR BLADE!
YOU LOUSY, FILTHY, MURDERING--
YAAAGKH!
SILENCE, HUMAN--!
KLOK
LEST WE FORGET OUR MASTER'S COMMANDS...
...AND MAKE YOU ONE OF US... ONE OF THE LEGION OF THE DAMNED...
...FOREVER

SHE WAKES, MILADY!
LUCKILY FOR YOU, VIERKEN!
HAD YOU FAILED THIS TIME, IT WOULD HAVE MEANT YOUR... LIFE!
ONE OF THESE DAYS, MARGUERITE, YOU'LL PUSH ME TOO FAR...
...AND ON THAT DAY, LITTLE VAMPIRE, YOU'LL DIE YOUR FINAL DEATH!
FOR I AM THE CHOSEN OF THE MASTER, VIERKEN -- EVEN AS THIS HUMAN WOMAN IS -- DEFY ME AND YOU DEFY HIM --
--AND THERE'S NOT A VAMPIRE ALIVE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO THAT!
PERHAPS NOT NOW, BUT SOON, MILADY... SOON!
YOU KNOW... KIDNAPPING A POLICE OFFICER IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE...
NOT WHEN THAT OFFICER IS THE INVITED GUEST OF A NOBLE HOUSE...
...AS YOU HAVE BEEN THESE LAST THREE DAYS!
NO, INSPECTOR FRASER, THERE ARE NO BITES -- FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, YOU ARE STILL HUMAN...
...AND A GUEST, AS I HAVE SAID AT D'ALESCIO HALL IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND!
THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE LEGION!
NOT TO MENTION THE MAIN LABORATORY FOR YOUR SUNLIGHT SERUM...
OH, YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT, DO YOU, INSPECTOR?
HOW MUCH ELSE DO YOU KNOW ABOUT US?
NOTHING TO SPEAK OF!
YOU WOULD DO WELL TO COOPERATE, INSPECTOR FRASER! TRUE, THE MASTER DOES NOT WANT YOU MADE A VAMPIRE -- NOR DOES HE WANT YOU KILLED OR CRIPPLED OR DISFIGURED...
...BUT WE CAN HURT YOU!
AND IF YOU DO NOT TELL US WHAT WE WISH TO KNOW...
...WE SHALL HURT YOU! VERY MUCH!

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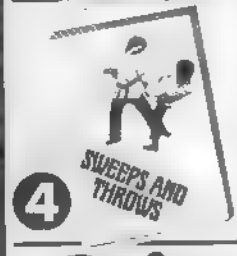


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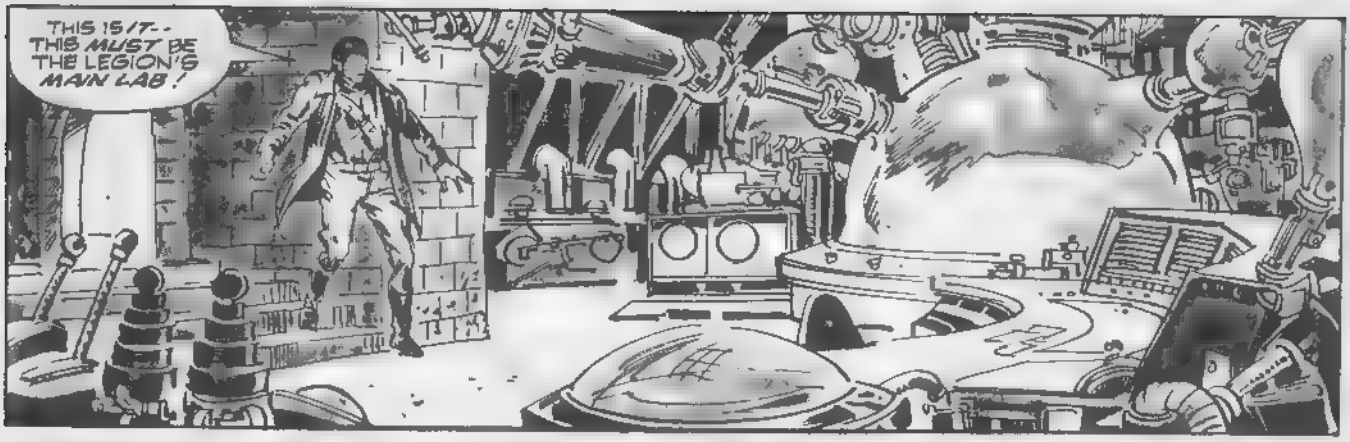
TCHINK!
"IF WE DO," LADY MARGUERITE REPLIES, "REST ASSURED THAT WE WILL TAKE YOU WITH US. THE WOMAN IS YOURS. VIERKEN DO WITH HER WHAT YOU WILL."
TKAK T
WHA--? WHO'S THERE?!?
DEMONS OF HELL--A ROPE--!
AARGKH!!
SHHPP
NOT A SOUND, VAMPY- WE WOULDN'T WANT TO WAKE THE DEAD NOW, WOULD WE?
I DIDN'T THINK SO!
HAPPY LANDING, SWEETHEART!
OKAY, HOTSHOT - YOU'RE INSIDE AN YOU'RE STILL BREATHIN'--
AAAAAAA
THAT SCREAM--! A WOMAN'S VOICE-- KATE FRASER'S VOICE!!
OKAY LADY MARGUERITE-- YOU WANTED TO PLAY IN THE BIG LEAGUES-- NOW YOU'RE GONNA PAY THE PRICE!
YOU'RE GONNA PAY IN FULL!

YOU BETTER MOVE FAST, BABY...
...CAUSE THESE BATBRAIN LEGIONAIRRES SPOT YOU -- YOU AIN'T GONNA HAVE A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL...
AH, WHO GIVES A DAMN, YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO GO OUT WITH A BANG --
-- SO NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
OKAY, MAN -- YOU GOT TEN MINUTES TO FIND THE MAIN LAB, ZAP IT, FIND THE LADIES AN' GIT BEFORE THIS PLACE TAKES OFF FOR THE MOON...
TIME'S A-WASTIN', BRO' --
YOU ARE AN ANIMAL, VIERKEN!
NO LESS THAN YOU, MILADY -- FOR DID YOU NOT STAY AND WATCH?
AND YOU, HUMAN -- HAVE YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON?
GET... STUFFED!
RESISTANCE IS USELESS, WOMAN -- YOU CANNOT DEFY THE LEGION!
I CAN SURE AS HELL... TRY, FANGS -- BABY!
KAU!
YOU WILL NOT BREAK HER WITH FORCE, VIERKEN!
NO MATTER! THERE ARE DRUGS IN THE MAIN LABORATORY WHICH WILL DO THE JOB JUST AS WELL!
I WILL BE BACK WITH THEM... DIRECTLY!
BINGO!
MAN YOU MUST LIVE RIGHT --
-- 'CAUSE YOU HAVE JUST HIT THE JACKPOT!


THIS IS IT-- THIS MUST BE THE LEGION'S MAIN LAB!

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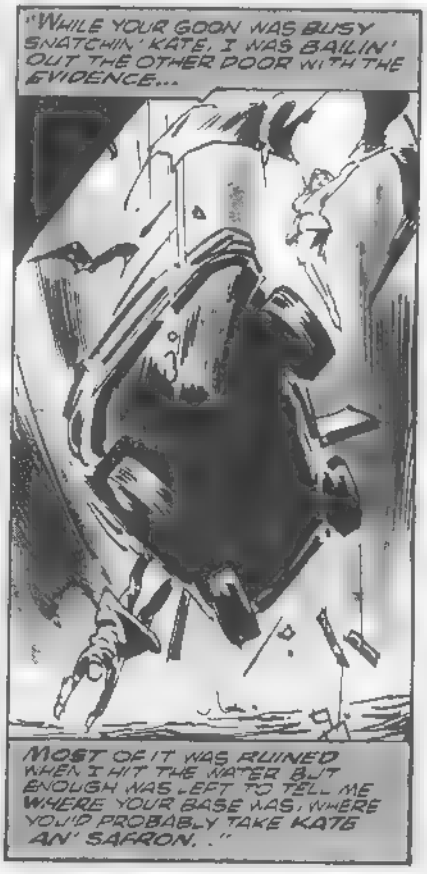
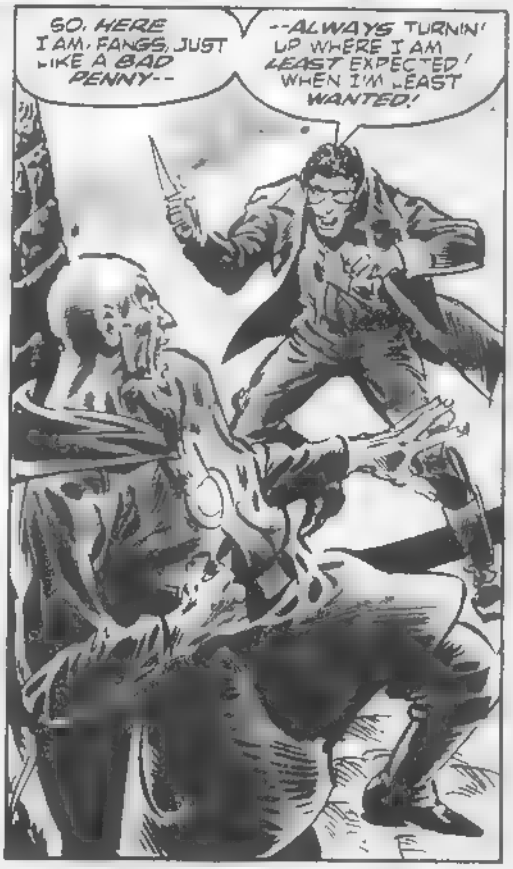
...BUT THE ONLY COMPLETE SET OF NOTES ON THE SUNLIGHT SERUM-- AND THE ONLY SAMPLES!

THE NOTES SAY THE FANG-BOYS STUMBLED ON THE FORMULA BY ACCIDENT--
--SO DESTROY THIG BATCH AN' THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MIX ANOTHER!

BABY IT'S AS GOOD AS DONE!
TIK TIK-TIK TIK TIK
YOU!!

BLADE! IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE DEAD!!
I SAW YOU DIE!
GUESS YOU DIDN'T LOOK HARD ENOUGH, BALDY!


"WHILE YOUR GOON WAS BUSY SNATCHIN' KATE, I WAS BAILIN' OUT THE OTHER DOOR WITH THE EVIDENCE...
MOST OF IT WAS RUINED WHEN I HIT THE WATER BUT ENOUGH WAS LEFT TO TELL ME WHERE YOUR BASE WAS, WHERE YOU'D PROBABLY TAKE KATE AN' SAFRON..."


SO, HERE I AM, FANGS, JUST LIKE A BAD PENNY--
--ALWAYS TURNIN' UP WHERE I AM LEAST EXPECTED! WHEN I'M LEAST WANTED!

THEN YOU HAVE 'TURNED UP' TO DIE, BLADE--
THAT'S BEEN SAID BEFORE, BALDY!
BY SOMEONE WHO COULD DO... THIS!?!
SURE--JUST THE OTHER NIGHT, AN' YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!
TIK TIK TIK TIK
YOU WON'T LAUGH QUITE SO LOUDLY OUT OF A GRAVE HUMAN--
SSSAAAA
YOU GOTTA PUT ME THERE FIRST--AN' FRANKLY, VIERKEN--
WHUUMPFF!!
CHKOT
--YOU AIN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES!!
KTOW
FOOL!!
YOU CANNOT STOP ME--YOU CAN NEVER STOP ME--

--FOR I AM LEGION, BLADE--
TKRAK
--AND I AM INVINCIBLE!!
THE HELL YOU ARE!!
YYAAAARRGH!!
FHUD
KRA-WHOOMM!

BLADE'S DONE HIS WORK WELL. IN MINUTES, THE FIRES SPAWNED BY HIS EXPLOSIVES CAN BE SEEN FROM THIRTY MILES AWAY...

GET A MOVE ON, BOTH OF YOU -- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
WHY ARE YOU HELPING US? WHY? YOU WANTED US DEAD!

WHAT HAS SHE TO FEAR?
YOU SEE, SAFRON, WE'VE NO PROOF TO BACK OUR STORY-- SO IT'S OUR WORD AGAINST HERS! AND SHE'S GOT MONEY AND A TITLE!
BUT YOU'RE WRONG, LADY MARGLER TE-- IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE! FOR YOU!

COME NOW, INSPECTOR-- DO YOU THINK I'M FOOL--
SHE'S NOT FOOLIN', LADY; AND NEITHER AM I! SO YOU JUST DROP YOUR GUN AN' BE COOL--
--OR I'LL KILL YOU!

THERE IS NO NEED FOR THREATS, MR. BLADE! I WILL DO AS YOU ASK!
WHY SHOULDN'T I? AS INSPECTOR FRAGER SO RIGHTLY SAID, WHAT HAVE I TO FEAR? THE... LAW CANNOT TOUCH ME!

BUT I CAN!
YOU OWE ME FOR A LOT OF PAIN, LADY--AN' I FEEL LIKE COLLECTIN'! WHAT THE HELL, IF I'VE GOTTA GO TO PRISON FOR ONE COUNT O' MURDER...
...I MIGHT AS WELL GO FOR TWO!

BLADE, NO!
YOU KILL HER AND YOU WILL GO TO PRISON...
...LET HER ALONE AND YOU'RE A FREE MAN!

WHA-A-AT!?
YOU DIDN'T KILL JOSIE HARPER--IT WAS A FRAME-UP-- AND I'VE GOT THE EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT! I'VE ALWAYS HAD IT-- I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO FLASH IT WHILE MILADY HAD HER GUN!
YOU MADE TOO BIG AN ENEMY OF VIERKEN LADY MARGUERITE--HE WANTED YOU HUMBLED, COWED... BROKEN!
.. SO HE TAPED THIS VIDEO CASSETTE --I FOUND IT AT YOUR LONDON HOUSE BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO USE IT!
THE CASSETTE SHOWS JOSIE AND SAFRON BEING HELD PRISONER AT YOUR HOUSE, WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE...
.AND IT SHOWS THAT THE HAND THAT KILLED JOSIE WAS A VAMPIRIC HAND NOT A HUMAN ONE!
MAYBE IT ISN'T ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO SINK YOU, LADY MARGUERITE...
...BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO CLEAR BLADE! I-- SETTLE FOR THAT AND NOW I'M GOING HOME!
BLADE--!
YOU HAVE WON, HUMAN-- ENJOY YOUR VICTORY WHILE YOU MAY--
--BUT YOU HAVE ONLY WON A BATTLE, BLADE--
THAT VOICE-- THE MASTER-- IT'S HIM--IT'S BEEN HIMM ALL ALONG--
"--DRACULA!!"
--YOU HAVE NOT WON THE WAR!
WE WILL MEET AGAIN, HUMAN-- AND ON THAT DAY--
--ONE OF US WILL DIE!!
--YOU CAN BET ON IT DRAC-- BABY--
--YOU CAN BET ON IT!
IT'S MORNING NOW-- THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY-- THE CHRONICLES OF HELL ARE ENDED AND THE WORLD IS AT PEACE ONCE MORE.
BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT
FINIS

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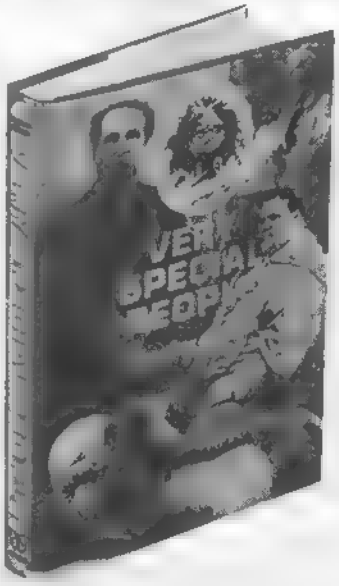

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# A SHORT PICTO-HISTORY OF BLADE

Count Dracula, Lord of the Undead, wasn't the *only* blood-sucker which Blade faced! There was also Morbius, the Living Vampire, who bewildered our vampire slayer by showing *no* reactions to crosses, garlic, or other accoutrements which offend the fiends that go bump in the night.

BY SCOTT EDELMAN

It was July of 1973 (TOMB OF DRACULA #10), when the comics' world first learned of Blade, the Vampire Slayer (or *Killer*, as he lovingly called himself during his first appearance those two long years ago!)

Born bastard to a prostitute and unacknowledged heir to a white-haired vampire, Blade seeks vengeance on his mother's killer— and plans to pay in full!

SO DON'T HAND ME ANY OF YOUR BULL 'BOUT MOURNIN' THE DEAD-- 'CAUSE I'VE BEEN THROUGH IT ALL BEFORE--
--AN I'M STILL LIVIN WITH IT EVERY TIME I LOOK IN THE MIRROR AN REALIZE THAT A WOMAN DIED GIVIN BIRTH TO ME--ME!
SO TAKE YOUR HIGH-HAT WORDS AND SHOVE 'EM 'CAUSE WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED WITH YOUR CHASE--I'LL BE STARTIN' MINE!

Cool and calculated and totally bent on the destruction of the Lord of the Undead— of such is a vampire-slayer made!

YOU HAVE KILLED TOO MANY OF MY CHILDREN, BLADE--YOU HAVE HOUNDED THEM, CHASED THEM, SLAUGHTERED THEM--WHEN ALL THEY SOUGHT WAS TO SPREAD MY RULE TO HUMANS.
IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT AS THEIR LORD AND MASTER--IT IS MY HAND WHICH SLAYS YOU..
..WHICH ENDS YOUR WRETCHED EXISTENCE FOR ALL TIME.

GOD--I STILL FEEL THE MARKS ON MY NECK--THE DRIED BLOOD AROUND THEM BUT I HAVEN'T CHANGED - I HAVEN'T BECOME A VAMPIRE.
HOW? FOR GOD'S SAKE--TELL ME WHY I HAVEN'T CHANGED
IT SEEMS MOST IMPOSSIBLE--YET THE PRINCIPLE WORKS ON NORMAL HUMAN DISEASES--
I AM NOT SURE BLADE--BUT I BELIEVE YOU'RE IMMUNE TO VAMPIRE BITES - TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY IMMUNE

Blade's greatest weapon: Due to the death of his mother during labor— caused by a vampire's attack— he gained an immunity to Count Dracula's bite .. an immunity with which the Lord of the Undead will someday have to reckon!

When Marv Wolfman and Gene Colan created Blade as a foil for Count Dracula, little did they dream that he would someday warrant a title all his own!

Death finds the Count— again and again and again! What can you say about a freelance vampire killer who succeeds over and over and over— but whose job is never done? Only . . . better luck next time!

**BLADE: APPEARANCES TO DATE**

VAMPIRE TALES #'s 8, 9
FEAR (with MORBIUS, the Living Vampire) #24
TOMB OF DRACULA #'s 10, 12-14, 15 (one panel), 17, 19, 21, 24, 28, 30

# NEXT ISSUE:

**FROM THE WORLD-FAMOUS NOVEL THAT SPAWNED THE MODERN-DAY SUPER-HERO...**

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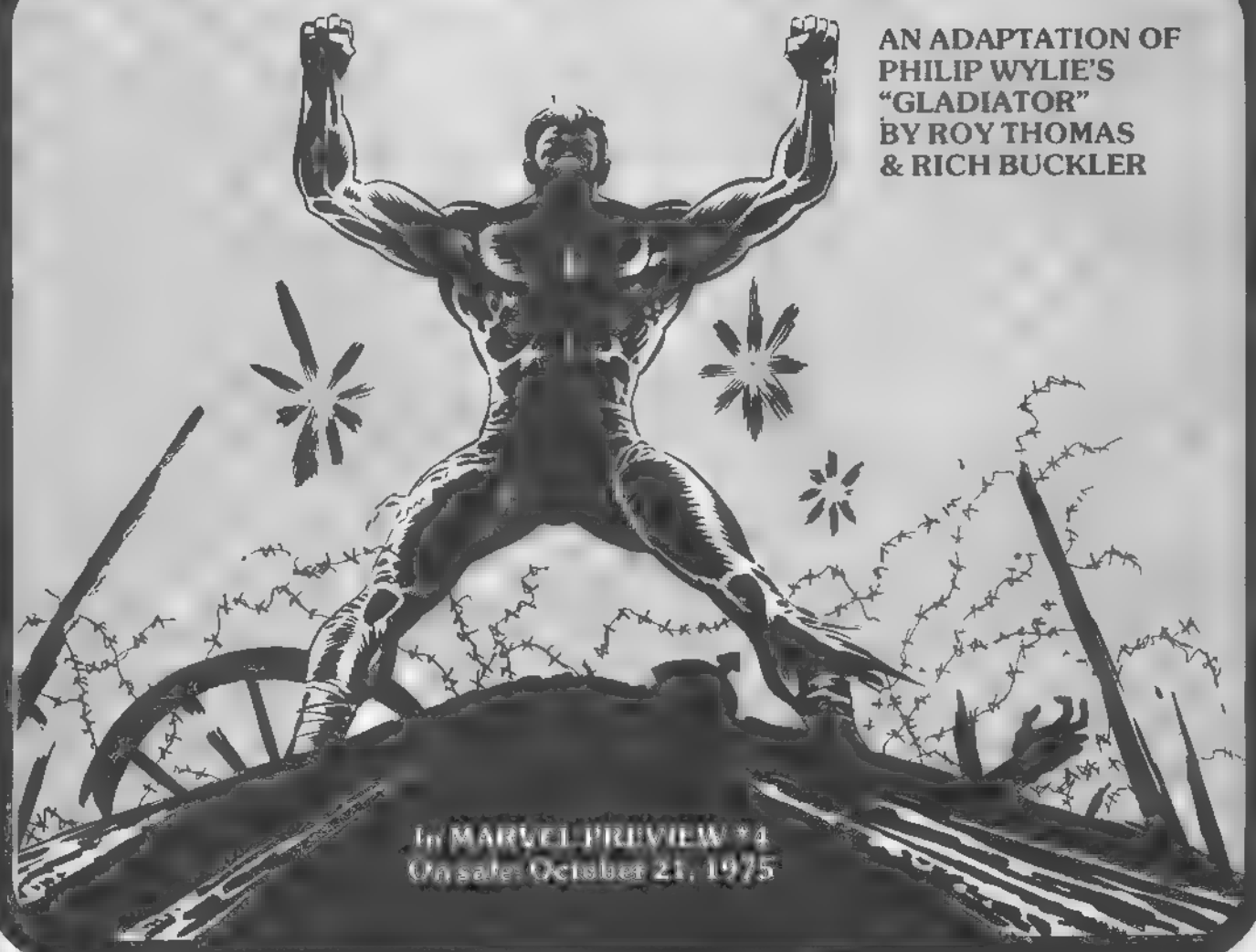

In MARVEL PREVIEW #4
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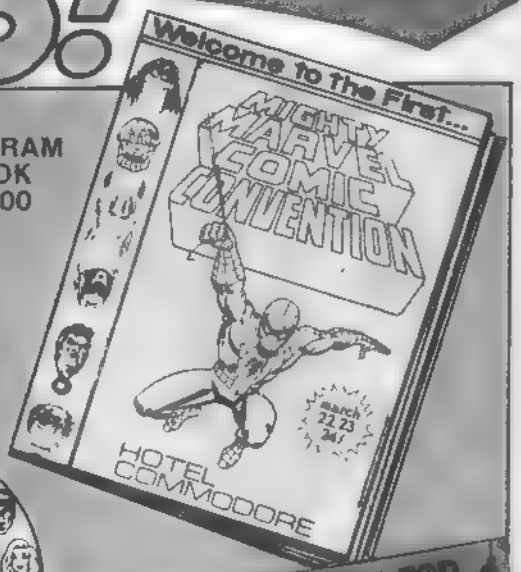

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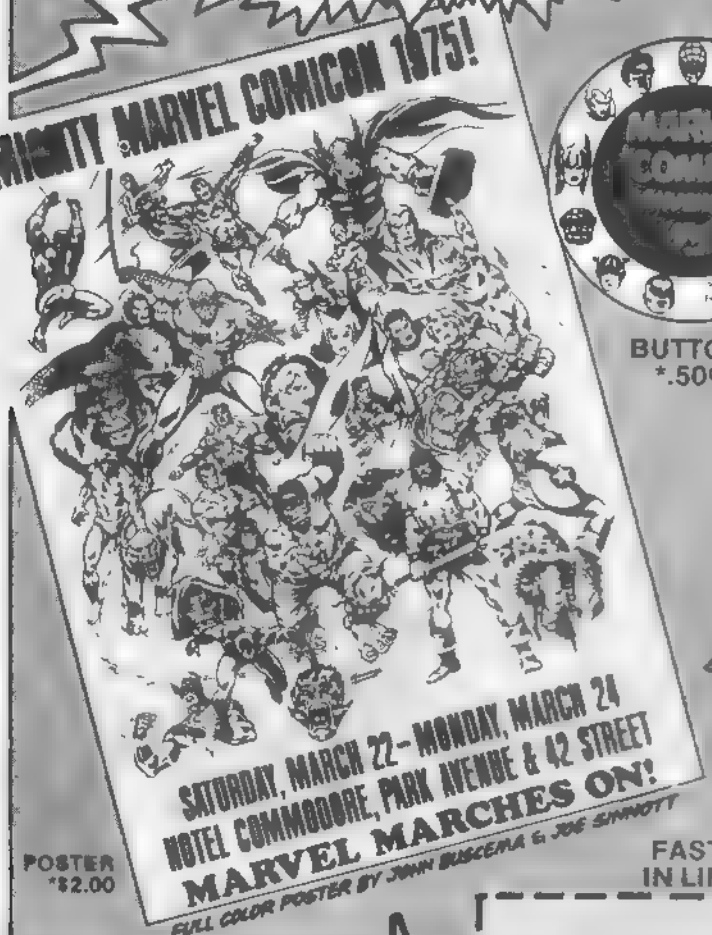
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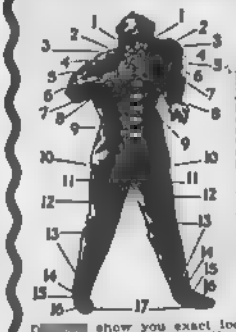

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Order both the SUPER KARATE BOOK and LIFE-LIKE DUMMY for only $1.98 postpaid and SAVE 52c. Just check box in coupon below. We pay all postage.

**$1.98**

Great Britain 1£

**SAVE MONEY! ORDER BOTH NOW!**

**PRECISE PUBLICATIONS, Dept. KA-21**
**Box 322, Lenox Hill Sta., N. Y., N. Y. 10021**

- ☐ Rush your special Combination money saving package of SUPER KARATE BOOK and DUMMY. I enclose $1.98 as payment in full. (I save 52c.) Ship in plain wrapper. My friends and I must be delighted with my amazing new power or you refund my money in full.
- ☐ Rush my copy of SUPER KARATE BOOK in plain wrapper for which I enclose 99c plus 25c for postage and handling. (total $1.25)
- ☐ Rush my life like Karate DUMMY in plain wrapper, for which I enclose 99c plus 25c for postage and handling. (total $1.25)

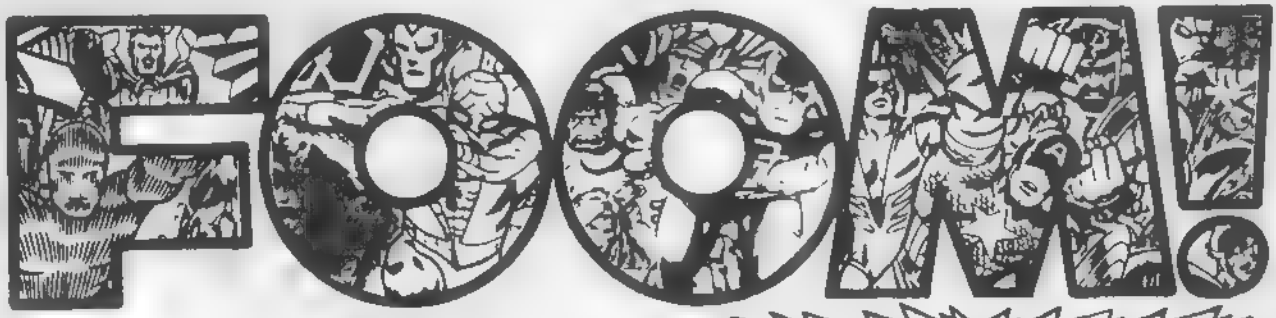
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

☐ I understand that by studying KARATE I am morally bound and obligated never to practice KARATE as an aggressor only to defend myself) and will never abuse it.

# IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN...

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WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP YOU GET: -A 22"x28" FULL COLOR POSTER! A GOLD FINISHED MEMBERSHIP CARD! A FISTFUL OF SCINTILLATING STICK-ONS! -FOUR FUN AND FACT-FILLED ISSUES OF THE GREATEST FAN MAGAZINE OF ALL TIME! (AND CONFIDENTALLY, YOU WON'T BELIEVE THE SURPRISE ENVELOPE ALL THIS COMES IN!)

ALLOW 4 TO 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY!

*FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, FOOM HAS PROVIDED FANTASTIC FRENZY FOR THOUSANDS (THAT'S SAM THOUSANDS, THE GUY WHO RUNS THE CORNER DELI!)!*

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MARVEL MERCHAND SING DEPT F
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK N Y 10022

I CAN'T HOLD OUT ANY LONGER! PLEASE SEND ME MY FOOM KIT NOW! I ENCLOSE $2.50

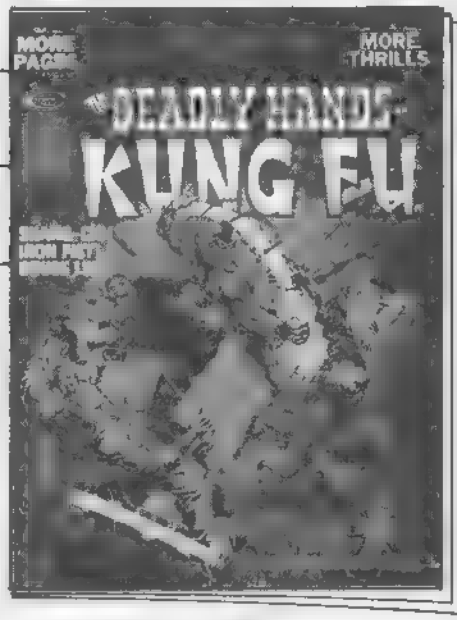
NAME _____ AGE ___

ADDRESS _____

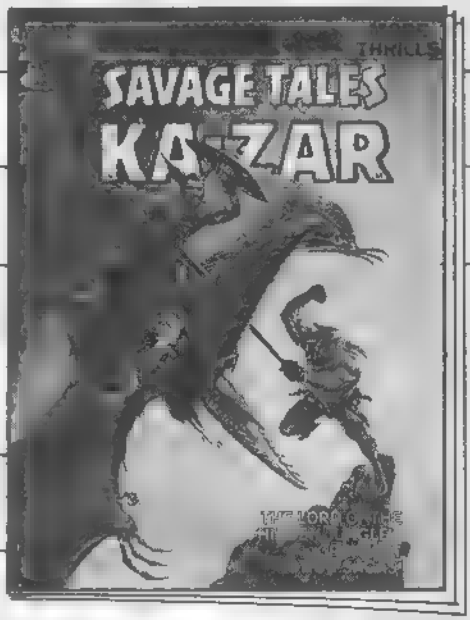
CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

# It's The Mighty Marvel Spectacular




ON SALE JULY 1

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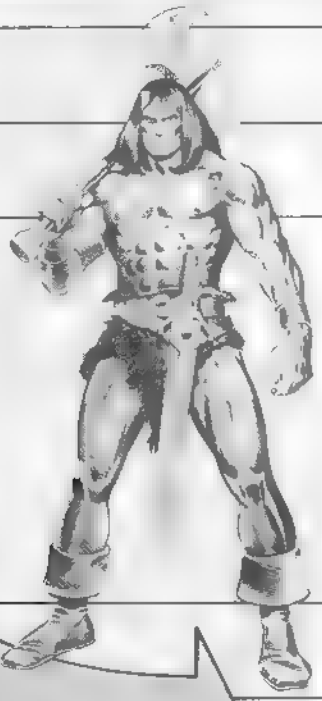
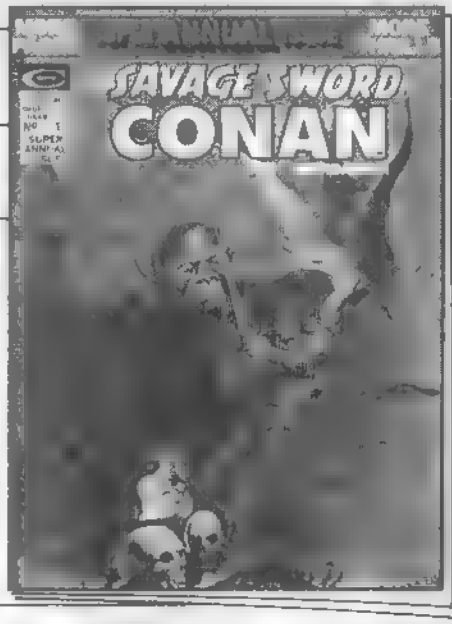
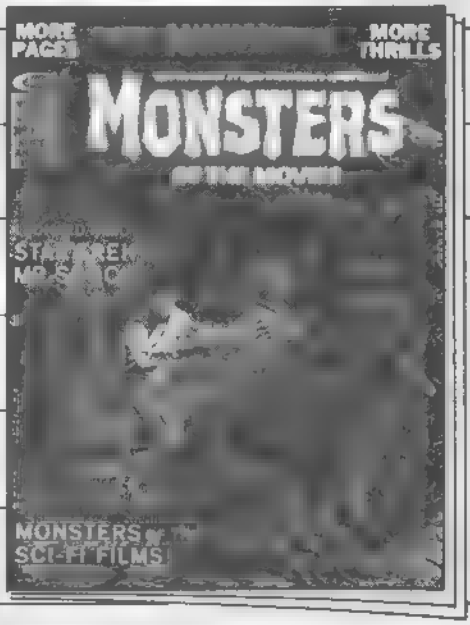





ON SALE JULY 15




ON SALE AUGUST 5

So just HOW do we plan to top all that—take a look, effendi!

ON SALE AUGUST 5

Two dynamic double-dynamite Summer BLOCKBUSTERS that will shock and shake you!

# Summer Spectaculars...

# ...All Summer Long!

**Just grab a gleeful gander at the pulse-pounding plethora of senses-shattering SUMMER SPECIALS and frolickin' first issues! And, believe us— this is only the BEGINNING!**

**And, in the titantic torrent of typically terrific specials, leave us not forget our regular Black-and-White line. Sitting still, we definitely AREN'T! Starting with...**

**All New! THE LEGION OF MONSTERS!**
**On Sale July 15**

**MARVEL PREVIEW #3**
***featuring* BLADE**
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**On Sale July 15**

**DOC SAVAGE: THE MAN OF BRONZE #2**
**On Sale August 12**

ON SALE AUGUST 5

YES – PLEASE RESERVE MY COPY OF –

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ KUNG FU SPECIAL | $1.25 plus 25¢ handling |
| ☐ SAVAGE TALES SPECIAL | $1.25 plus 25¢ handling |
| ☐ SAVAGE SWORD SPECIAL | $1.25 plus 25¢ handling |
| ☐ MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES SPECIAL | $1.25 plus 25¢ handling |
| ☐ THE DEADLIEST HEROS OF KUNG FU | $1.00 plus 25¢ handling |
| ☐ VAMPIRE TALES SPECIAL | $1.25 plus 25¢ handling |
| ☐ THE MASTERS OF TERROR | $1.00 plus 25¢ handling |
| ☐ THE LEGION OF MONSTERS | $1.00 plus 25¢ handling |
| ☐ MARVEL PREVIEW #3 | $1.00 plus 25¢ handling |
| ☐ MARVEL MOVIE PREMIERE #1 | $1.00 plus 25¢ handling |
| ☐ DOC SAVAGE #2 | $1.00 plus 25¢ handling |

TOTAL $ _____ NY & NJ ADD APPLICABLE SALES TAX

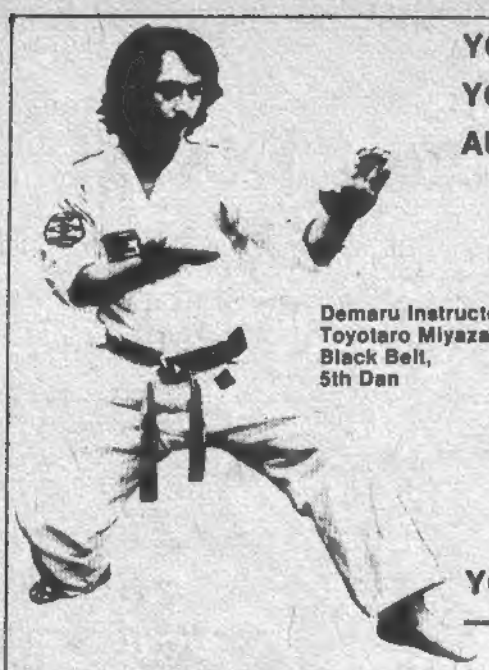
NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

ALLOW 6 TO 8 WEEKS DELIVERY



Demaru Instructor
Toyotaro Miyazaki,
Black Belt,
5th Dan

## YOU'LL BE A MASTER OF SELF DEFENSE ONCE YOU'VE COMPLETED OUR REVOLUTIONARY NEW AUDIOVISUAL HOME STUDY COURSE IN DYNAMIC....

# KUNG-FU & KARATE

## YOU LEARN BY LOOKING AND LISTENING THE EASY WAY —FOR LESS THAN 16¢ A LESSON!

### YOUR PHYSICAL SIZE AND AGE ARE UNIMPORTANT

It doesn't make any difference whether you are short, tall, skinny, fat or just plain average. We don't care if you've lost every fight you ever fought. We'll teach you how to defend yourself and those you love against one, two, or even three attackers with complete self confidence. By taking our revolutionary new audiovisual home study course in dynamic KUNG FU & KARATE **you'll be able to face ANY MAN, ANYWHERE** without the fear of being physically hurt or embarrassed.

### WE'LL PROGRAM YOUR MIND TO MASTER ALMOST ANY SELF DEFENSE SITUATION

**No rigorous or boring exercises are necessary.** You learn in the comfort and privacy of your own home, either alone or with a friend, by looking and listening with our simple, effective audiovisual technique. You merely follow the pictures in our lesson book as you listen to each lesson on our SPECIAL LONG PLAYING 12" RECORD. What could be easier?

**By playing this record over and over, the lessons become buried deep in your subconscious.** Your mind is conditioned in the ancient Oriental disciplines of KUNG FU & KARATE—it develops a memory bank of specialized fighting knowledge. If you are attacked, you'll find yourself springing to action almost automatically, using this knowledge to defend yourself and those you love.

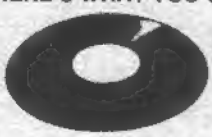
### YOUR BODY BECOMES A POWERFUL WEAPON OF DEFENSE

We'll teach you how to use your hands, feet, arms, legs, elbows and knees as powerful weapons against any attacker. You'll learn the KUNG FU & KARATE techniques of the thrust punch, hammerfist, X & U punch, knife hand, spear hand, palm heel strike, snap kick, thrust kick, stamping kick, knee kick, elbow strike, backfirst, X block, sweeping block, high and low blocks, and much, much more. **You'll learn nerve centers and pressure points—where, when and how to hit effectively and avoid being hit yourself.** You'll learn all the essential secrets of these two Oriental fighting arts—ancient secrets that have allowed smaller, weaker men to defeat larger, more powerful men with ease.

### A NEW, CONFIDENT YOU

Take this course and feel like a new person. Never be afraid to go anywhere ever again—ball game, beach, school yard, bar, dance, tough neighborhood, back alley or parking lot at night. Gain self confidence and win the respect and admiration of those you love. Your cool, confident steel-like gaze will show others you are no person to fool around with. Feel a new power come over you—the power to master almost any self defense situation!

### HERE'S WHAT YOU GET:



Our long playing 12" 33⅓ RPM instruction record which contains 35 complete, separate and distinct lessons. It was specially produced to make the learning of the essential self defense techniques of KUNG FU & KARATE as inexpensive and easy as possible.

Complete picture lesson book containing over 135 photos and illustrations. While you are coached by the lesson record, each defensive movement is shown to you step-by-step by our instructor, TOYOTARO MIYAZAKI, BLACK BELT, 5TH DAN from the world famous KENKOJUKU DOJO in TOKYO, JAPAN.

Complete nerve center and pressure point chart showing all vital areas of defense.

### HERE'S WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY ABOUT THIS COURSE:

"Next to taking lessons in dojo, this home study course has to be the best way available for learning self-defense Kung Fu and Karate."

R. Richards, Black Belt, 1st Dan

"At last! A home study course that is more than just a book or manual. This course is, without a doubt the easiest most effective home study program I have ever come across."

G. Aschkar, Black Belt, 1st Dan

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667 Madison Avenue., New York, N.Y. 10021

### ALL THIS FOR LESS THAN 16¢ A LESSON

It's hard to believe, but it's true! People across this country pay up to $10.00 for a single lesson in KUNG FU or KARATE—more than the cost of this entire home study course. Only today's modern technological advances in audiovisual learning, and mass production techniques make it possible for us to bring you this complete course at such a ridiculously low price! Yes it's absolutely true—you get 35 complete lessons for only $4.98 & 50¢ for postage and handling—that's less than 16¢ a lesson!

Don't delay! Order this complete home study course today. You'll never forgive yourself if you don't.

### 10 DAY NO RISK MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

If aften ten days of examining this home study course, you are not completely satisfied that this is the easiest, most effective way possible to learn self defense, KUNG FU and KARATE at home, you may return it for a full refund of your purchase price.

### USE THIS RUSH COUPON TO ORDER:

Yes, this is for me. Rush me your complete audiovisual home study course in dynamic KUNG FU & KARATE. I enclose $4.98 plus 50¢ for postage and handling (totaling $5.48) as payment in full. I understand that this course was designed to teach me how to use KUNG FU & KARATE to defend myself. I promise never to use these techniques as an aggressor. Send cash, check or money order to:

**Demaru, Inc., Dept. MM-8**
**667 Madison Ave.,**
**New York, N.Y. 10021**

Name.....

Street.....

City.....

State.....Zip.....

New York residents please include appropriate sales tax. Residents of England please send £3. Sorry no COD's.

# I'll guide you **step by step** into your own thriving business

## ● While keeping your present job, would you like to gross $14 or $21 profit per hour?

*a true story by Bob Ferrel*

SOME YEARS AGO I was a printer in a small Michigan town. I drew a pretty fair pay check but it wouldn't stretch far enough to provide the kind of living I wanted for my wife and five children.

Then one day I was reading a magazine just as you now are and I saw an ad. It intrigued me. It offered me the steadily growing income I had always hoped for. It said I would have greater security and personal independence... and that's what I had been wanting.

I was a little skeptical, but I said to myself, "for a postage stamp I can find out." So I mailed the coupon. In a few days, I got a letter with a booklet that gave the whole story. It opened my eyes. I could see why owning my own business was so much easier than I had always thought . . . why the day to day guidance of a successful worldwide organization could assure my own success.

I read the booklet several times. It just seemed too good to be true. I talked it over with my wife. We decided that **now** was the time to make the forward step . . . there was no reason to keep postponing an income increase.

So, I applied for a Duraclean dealership and I was accepted. I stayed with my job . . . ran a few ads . . . sent some mailings . . . contacted a few stores and told my friends about the superior services I was now equipped to give them. Evenings and Saturdays, I rendered the service. As the business grew, I added servicemen.

I found that I didn't have to develop a single idea myself. Every step had been prepared for me and pre-tested. Hundreds of other men had already proven my methods successful.

It didn't take long to see that I was making three to four times (yes, 3 to 4 times) as much per hour in my own business as in my printing job. So, after only seven months with a good following of customers, I quit my job to go full time on my own. In the meantime, I had enjoyed all this extra income on top of my salary.

Each day, we realized what a **serious** mistake not mailing that coupon would have been . . . and how that little act that seemed so trivial at the time actually changed our lives.

The steadily growing income brought us many things we could not afford before. My efforts were so much more productive. I scheduled my time to my own liking. When we wanted a day or two off, we took it. I worked hard but, if I wanted to be home early or quit at noon, I did.

This is not a business for a lazy man. But if a man is ambitious and will work to deserve those nice things in life we all want, this business is made to order for such a man.

I became so enthusiastic about this business and so appreciative of what it had brought my family that, whenever a man opened a dealership near me, I helped him get a quick start.

The company learned about this and had each new dealer in my section of Michigan spend a day with me. One day the president of Duraclean Company asked me how I would like to move to Headquarters and spend my entire time helping dealers to increase their sales and profits.

That was good news to my ears. Since then I have worked with hundreds of our dealers in their own towns and at regional meetings, conventions and dealer group meetings. But much of the time I am right here at my desk in touch with our dealers by letter and telephone.

Incidentally I sold my dealership at a good profit. Dealers sell their Duraclean businesses for up to ten times their cost. After 30 months, Leo Lubel sold for $7,116 above his cost. If for any reason a dealer wants to sell, we maintain a service to locate buyers and help him sell.

Our job here at headquarters is to show each individual Duraclean dealer how to use his own abilities to bring him greatest success. I know hundreds of our dealers on a first name basis. We work together as one happy family. If you become a Duraclean dealer, I'll be as close to you as your telephone or mail box.

### It's Easier than You Think To Build Your Own Business

If you've wanted to BE YOUR OWN BOSS... to become financially independent and have a fast growing income, now YOU CAN. And you own a Nationally Advertised business.

You can stay at your present job while your customer list grows . . . then switch to full time, lining up jobs for your servicemen to do. One job a day brings a good starting income.

If you hire two servicemen (full or part time) while you keep your job, the national price guide provides you a gross profit of $14 an hour on their work and this is much easier to do than you think. **We show you how . . .** step by step. That's $490 for a 35 hour week.

Your gross profit on three servicemen is $21 per hour. Duraclean dealers find it easy to gross $7 per hour on EACH serviceman plus $12 an hour on any service they themselves render. The 24 page illustrated booklet we'll mail you (with no obligation) explains how most of your gross profit becomes **clear net profit.** Your income is limited only by the number of servicemen you employ.

You can operate from a shop, office, or your home. Equipment is light and portable.

At the start, you may want to render service yourself . . . or you can start with full or part time servicemen. This business is easy to learn . . . easy to start . . . so easy to service that women dealers do it. We prefer you have no experience . . . not have to "unlearn" old ways.

We are NOW enlarging this worldwide system of individually-owned service businesses. If you are reliable, honest and willing to work to become financially independent, we invite you to mail the coupon.

When you receive our illustrated booklet, you will see the way we show you **step by step** how to quickly get customers . . . and still more customers from their recommendations.

You have 7 superior services that are rendered "on location" in homes, offices, hotels, theaters, clubs, motels and institutions.

These are not ordinary services. You have the prestige and endorsement of leading furniture makers and carpet mills, of Parents' Magazine and McCall's, of Research and Testing Laboratories.

National magazine advertising explains superior merits of **your** services, builds **your** customer confidence and brings job leads to **you.**

We and a Duraclean dealer will train you and assist you. He'll reveal his successful, proven methods. You have pre-tested newspaper and yellow-page ads, commercials, and a full mailing program.

Stores, upholsterers, insurance adjustors, and decorators refer jobs to our dealers. These year 'round services are in constant demand.

### Start Small, Grow Big in this Booming Business

Many men have said to us, "I can't afford to give up my job till I know I have a sure thing . . . a sound business that will provide both security and a better living for my family."

That made sense to us so we worked out such a plan . . . and those same men are now enjoying a Duraclean dealership in many communities. You don't experiment. You use **tested, proven** methods. You have **our backing and "know how."**

Does this appeal to you? Don't decide now. Mail the coupon so you'll have the facts to decide wisely. There is no obligation. You'll then know whether this is what you want.

You can start small and grow big. A third century ago Duraclean was an idea . . . but it caught fire and spread to a world wide service. Why did it spread? (1) **superior processes.** (2) **proven customer-getting methods** (3) **Day to day guidance from Headquarters.**

Our first service, the care of upholstery and carpets not only cleans, it enlivens the fibers . . . revives dull colors. Pile rises with **new life.** There's no harsh machine scrubbing. No soaking. Mild aerated foam lightly applied lifts out dirt, grease, many unsightly spots like magic. Furnishings are used again in a few hours.

**Government figures show service businesses are growing faster than industries and stores . . . $750 million yearly potential just in rug and furniture cleaning. Your 6 other services are explained in the free booklet we'll mail you.**

**Less than $1500 establishes YOUR OWN business. A day's profit more than pays the monthly payments we finance for you.**

Men frequently take in partners.

We furnish electric equipment and, with first shipment, enough materials to **return your TOTAL investment.** If you have good habits and know the importance of customer satisfaction, you can likely qualify for a Duraclean dealership.

TODAY is the time to reserve a Duraclean dealership, **before** someone takes your location.

It's been said, "Opportunity knocks but once at every man's door." This could be that one rare opportunity in **your life.**

It is surprisingly easy to learn this business. You can decide from the information we will send you whether to apply for a dealership. So, with **no obligation whatever,** mail the coupon TODAY. Cut it out NOW so you won't forget to mail it.

**Mail this coupon TODAY**
**It may put you in business**

**Duraclean International**
51Y9 **Duraclean Bldg., Deerfield, Ill. 60015**

**With no obligation,** mail 24 page illustrated booklet telling how and why I can quickly increase my income and family security **while still employed,** how you'll help finance me. **No salesman will call.**

Name_____

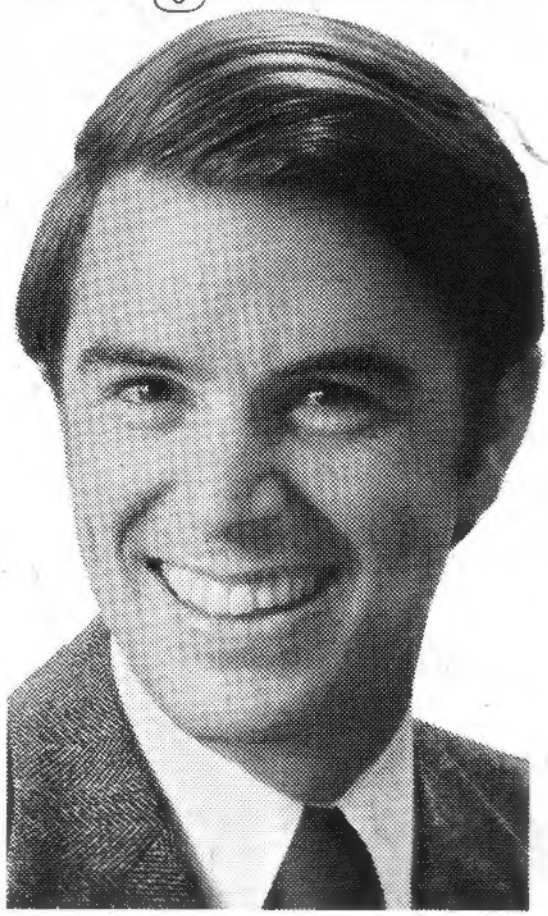
Address_____

City_____

State & Zip_____

# "Look who's smiling now!"

**Sometimes a man sets his ambitions high enough to make skeptics smile. But how often he gets the last laugh! One outstanding LaSalle graduate writes: "At the time I started studying with LaSalle, I was working as a factory clerk. Before completing the course I was transferred to cost accounting and my salary was increased by $1800. Now, having completed the course, I'm in charge of the department and on my way. LaSalle's course helped me pull myself out of a boring and ill-paid job into a position of opportunity."**



The words in quotes come directly from one of the pleased reports that are sent to us by LaSalle graduates. LaSalle files contain many letters from men and women who have moved ahead with the help of LaSalle training. You, too, can prepare for the career opportunity of your choice through LaSalle home study — without interfering with your present work — and by devoting only a little of your spare time.

LaSalle has been a leader in home education for more than sixty years, enrolling over 2,000,000 ambitious men and women in its many courses. You study under the supervision of LaSalle's experienced faculty. Upon satisfactory completion of your study, you receive the LaSalle diploma — a respected credential.

Mailing the LaSalle postage-paid coupon alongside may be the first step toward preparing yourself for a better job, and the many good things that go with success. Simply check the program in which you are most interested, to receive a valuable free booklet describing the opportunities in that field. There is no obligation. LaSalle, 417 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

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BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
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Postage will be paid by

**LA SALLE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY**
*A Correspondence Institution*
**417 S. DEARBORN STREET**
**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605**

FIRST CLASS
PERMIT NO. 27
CHICAGO, ILL.

FOLD HERE ↓ (DO NOT CUT) SEAL AND MAIL TODAY — NO STAMP NEEDED.

**MAIL THIS POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE**

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*A Correspondence Institution*

Please send me, without cost or obligation, FREE booklet and full information on the opportunity I have checked below:

**ACCOUNTING**
☐ General Accounting

**BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**
☐ Management Training

**BANKING & FINANCE**
☐ Management Training

**REAL ESTATE**
☐ Complete Training

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION**
☐ Complete Training

**DIESEL MECHANICS**
☐ Maintenance & Repair

**INTERIOR DECORATING**
☐ Complete Training

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☐ French ☐ Spanish

**COMPUTER PROGRAMMING**
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**EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT**
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*No state accepts any law home study course, including LaSalle's, as sufficient education to qualify for admission to practice law

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☐ Management Training

**MOTEL/HOTEL MANAGEMENT**
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**AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION**
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**HIGH SCHOOL**
☐ Diploma Program

Dept. 70-031

Mr.
Mrs. ..... Age .....
Miss (Circle title and please print)

Address ..... Apt. No. .....

City & State ..... Zip .....

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